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Town's football club raises homecoming hopes

IN a week when England's World Cup performances have raised hopes among fans that football's most coveted trophy could finally be 'coming home' Skelmersdale's flagship team have hinted at a homecoming of their own.

Bosses at Skelmersdale United have announced that plans are in motion for the club to return to the town "in the foreseeable future."

The club have been playing 'home' games 10 miles away at Prescot Cables' ground since they were forcibly moved from their Stormy Corner ground in October last year.

Now though they hope to return to a new ground in town before the end of the forthcoming season.

A club statement issued this week declared: "The management board at Skelmersdale United are presently engaged in negotiations to bring your town club back home and this will be in the foreseeable future."

Full story - back page.

COUNCIL INVESTS £900K TO UPGRADE INDUSTRIAL UNITS

Report by **Henry James**

WEST Lancs Council is launching a £900,000 project to improve industrial units in Skelmersdale in a bid to boost the town's economy and help to create and safeguard jobs.

Businesses will soon be able to rent out the new and improved industrial units in Gorsey Place, East Gillibrands.

The council has appointed building contractors Krol Corlett to design and construct one new industrial unit - replacing one damaged by fire in 2014 - and to undertake the refurbishment and alteration of three adjoining units.

When completed each unit will provide 4,700 sq. ft. of 'high-quality' accommodation and will be available for rent around Christmas time.

The council has said they will be "suitable for a wide range of uses from manufacturing to storage and distribution."

This project follows on from the council's successful development of 11 new units at the neighbouring Greenwood Business Centre in 2016 which has proved highly popular with local and national businesses.

Councillor Ian Moran, leader of West Lancashire Borough Council and cabinet member for economic regeneration, said: "The council's action plan shows that the authority is ambitious for the local economy and I am delighted the progress is being made on the project to create new and improved working environments for businesses."

Simon Krol, director of Krol Corlett, said: "We are looking forward to working with the council on this project to deliver great new premises that will help boost the local economy and help safeguard and deliver jobs."

Concerns

Meanwhile members of the borough council's planning committee have approved, with conditions, an outline planning application to construct two buildings on land on the western side of the XL Business Park on Statham Road, Skelmersdale.

Lathom South Parish Council and South Lathom Residents Association had expressed concerns about the application, by Gazeley UK Limited, for the construction of two buildings of light industrial, general industrial or storage and distribution purposes, with ancillary offices.

Council leader Ian Moran discusses the project with site manager, Asa Munro and director Simon Krol of Krol Corlett Construction

INSIDE THIS WEEK...

Lucy has designs on success

Edge Hill to honour Hillsborough campaigner

CROSSWORD
See Page 30

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Police release image of man wanted in connection with street pastor assault

Report by **Kenny Parker**

POLICE have issued a CCTV image of a man they want to speak to in relation to an unprovoked assault which left a 71-year-old woman unconscious.

The victim had been volunteering with Ormskirk Street Pastors at the time of the incident, which occurred at the Wheatsheaf car park in Ormskirk town centre on the night of Saturday, June 16. She was taken to Southport Hospital and discharged the following day.

Originally police believed the woman had tried to intervene in an altercation between two groups. However, Dave Mutch, co-ordinator of the street pastors, says that in fact she was actually on her way to the scene when the assault took place.

He said: "We were responding to a CCTV call but just walking across the car park when this lone guy hit our street pastor,

"We could hear and see some sort of altercation outside the Court Leet pub but we did not - and do not - intervene in fights. We just pick up the pieces and help any injured.

'Disgusting'

"This is the first such incident that Ormskirk Street Pastors have encountered since we started our patrols in January 2011. But we will continue to 'Listen, Care and Help' people on the streets of Ormskirk every weekend."

Lancashire Police released the image with the following statement:

"Do you recognise this man? We want to speak to him after an elderly woman was assaulted following an altercation between two groups in Ormskirk last weekend.

"It happened between 10.50pm and 11pm on Saturday (June 16) on the Wheatsheaf car park off Railway Road when two groups of men had been arguing and throwing bricks at each other.

"The victim, a 71-year-old street pastor, was punched to the face, causing her to fall to the floor and lose consciousness."

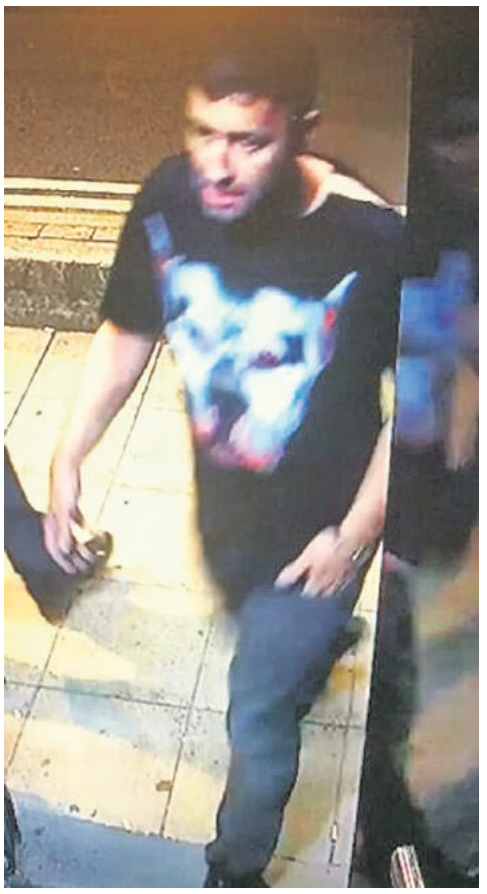
Officers are also appealing for information about another incident in connection with the confrontation between the groups in which a 50-year-old man was hit by a black Audi which then left the scene.

DC Michael Feeley from West Lancashire CID said: "It is utterly disgusting to think that an elderly woman, just acting as a pacifist, was punched so hard she landed on the pavement and was knocked unconscious.

"We are investigating the full circumstances around the altercation between the groups, the woman being attacked and the man being hit by the car.

"If you recognise the man pictured or you have any information that could assist with our inquiries, please make contact with us."

Anyone with information can ring 01695 566166 or 101, quoting incident reference 1669 of June 16.



The image of the man police want to speak to in relation to an assault on a 71-year-old street pastor in Ormskirk town centre.

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Award-winner Lucy has designs on fashion career

A TALENTED student from Skelmersdale has got designs on shaping a career in the fashion industry after winning a highly-acclaimed award at this year's Graduate Fashion Week (GFW) in London.

Lucy Nolan, who studies at Northumbria University, Newcastle, was revealed the winner of the Boux Avenue Swimwear Award, with the judges praising the attention to detail on her colourful Japanese sushi-inspired collection.

The 23-year-old was among a selection of final-year fashion students who put their designs and portfolios under the spotlight in front of industry experts, high street brands and top designers at the exhibition in the capital.

And the Fashion Design and Marketing student said she was "shaking with excitement" after she was declared the winner of the highly-acclaimed Boux Avenue Swimwear Award at the Best of GFW show.

The accolade is organised by the national lingerie and swimwear brand and is presented to a student who has created a collection that captures a modern and directional approach to the designs and their manufacture, along with £750 prize money.

Lucy said: "When my name was called out and I had to go on-stage to collect my award, I couldn't believe I had won. I was shaking with excitement and nerves.

"I could hear all my friends in the crowd screaming and cheering and I knew my family were watching back at home on the live stream.

"I am still feeling very overwhelmed after winning the award as I know how hard the competition was. It was a lovely end to my time at GFW, and the support I have received from everyone has been amazing – that makes winning the award even better."

Opportunity

Titled WAVAY, Lucy designed a luxury womens swimwear brand for her final year project, inspired by Japanese culture and the country's signature dish, sushi.

All the garments feature sushi-inspired prints, with each swimsuit being hand screen-printed using three to four different layers of varying colours and patterns.

The collection is also multi-functional as the swimsuits can be worn on their own or underneath a regular bikini.

Lucy added: "Seeing my work on the stand and gaining attention from industry professionals made all the hard work worthwhile. It was interesting to chat to people from a variety of design backgrounds and attending industry talks was a great opportunity. I am now hoping for a career in design, specialising in print or swimwear."

Many graduates from the course have gone on to enjoy successful careers at brands and agencies across the globe, including Louis Vuitton, Ralph Lauren and Nike, with the university's School of Design having an established reputation at the annual Graduate Fashion Week exhibition.

Programme leader for the course at Northumbria University, Hilary McGloughlin, said: "It is brilliant that Lucy's hard work and dedication has been recognised at the prestigious London event. The Boux Avenue Swimwear Award is a great accolade to win, and we couldn't be happier that Lucy's brand idea was chosen as the winner. I am sure Lucy will go on to have a successful career in fashion design."

Lucy with her award

Developers announce deal for B& M to be part of town centre scheme

...but MP expresses concern that there is still no news of a definite start date

Report by **Henry James**

BOSSES at developers St Modwen have agreed a deal to bring B&M to its proposed major regeneration scheme in Skelmersdale town centre - but West Lancs MP is still pressing for the company to announce a start date for the long-awaited project.

St Modwen say the discount store will open a new, large-format 20,000 sq ft store in the town, effectively forming a second retail anchor alongside Lidl.

The planned B&M in Skelmersdale would see 50 jobs created and add to the discount retailer's store portfolio of 570 shops.

Paul Batho, development director for St. Modwen, said: "Securing B&M alongside Lidl is a further major boost for the future development of Skelmersdale town centre.

"The commitment made by two of the UK's leading retailers to come to Skelmersdale is a huge boost of confidence for the town and the scheme and we look forward to delivering the extension to the town centre alongside our partners."

The announcement follows the news released last month that supermarket chain Lidl will occupy a 20,800 sq. ft. unit when the ambitious project finally gets off the ground.

A B&M spokesperson said: "We're feeling really positive about the creation of more jobs for local people and we hope customers are going to be delighted with their new store when we open.

"Customers can expect to find a wide variety of branded products including toys, food & drink, pet range, health & beauty and homewares."

St Modwen is working in partnership with West Lancashire Borough Council and Homes England to deliver an extension to Skelmersdale town centre. Discussions are ongoing and the partners consider the agreement with Lidl and now B&M is a further boost for the scheme.

The new CGI released by St Modwen showcasing the proposed Skelmersdale town centre scheme and highlighting the location of promised anchor stores, Lidl and B&M.

Plans include extensive improvements to the public realm, including a new pedestrian link between the college and the existing town centre, as well as enhancements to the public areas outside the library and Nye Bevan Pool.

St Modwen has also released a new computer generated image showcasing the town centre scheme and highlighting the location of Lidl and B&M.

Councillor Ian Moran, leader of West Lancs Council and portfolio holder for economic regeneration, said: "This news is another great boost for the proposals to regenerate Skelmersdale town centre. With Lidl and now B&M on board it is clear the council and its partners are making progress on delivering a scheme in the town centre that will be of benefit to the people of Skelmersdale."

However, although welcoming the announcement, Rosie Cooper remains "very concerned" at the silence over a start date.

She said: "I welcome this further promising news that B&M are now set to be part of Skelmersdale town centre, coming as it does on the back of the Lidl announcement, but what we need more than anything right now is a date when we can expect work to begin on developing the new Skelmersdale town centre.

"Residents will remain sceptical about any announcements until they can see diggers on site and the long-held dream actually becoming a reality."

Salons offer incentives to boost breast cancer screening numbers

WITH the numbers of breast cancer screening appointment attendances falling across South Lancashire, two beauty salons in Skelmersdale and Up Holland have joined forces with Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust to offer an incentive for women to attend.

According to recent figures, three in every 10 women between 47 and 73 years of age, who are invited to attend a free breast screening appointment, are failing to show.

Now, as an added incentive, hair and beauty salons across Lancashire are offering special discounts to those ladies who attend their breast screening appointments as part of the Breast Screening for Beauty campaign.

Janet, patient navigator for South Lancashire Breast Screening, said: "A huge thank-you must be given to the hair and beauty salons and GPs across Lancashire for their generosity and support.

"This incentive will hopefully encourage more women to attend their appointments and increase awareness about breast screening."

From June 16, ladies who attend their breast screening appointments will be given a card as proof of attendance that they should take with them to redeem their discounts.

Salons offering discounts and special rate treatments in West Lancs are Melanie Victoria Hair Salon, Ormskirk Road, Up Holland and Platino, Hawthorn Crescent, Skelmersdale.

Sheena Hilton, NHS breast screening manager at Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, said: "In certain areas of Lancashire, fewer than half of women aged 50 to 70 attend to be screened every three years, even though screening is free, fast and easily accessible.

"If breast cancer is diagnosed at the earliest stage of its development, it is estimated that after five years 99 out of 100 women diagnosed will still be alive, being screened regularly and detecting changes early is vital."

For further information about breast screening, contact the South Lancashire Breast Screening Unit at The Thomas Linacre Centre, Wigan on 01942 774713, or contact your GP.

For a list of discounts and treatments available visit www.wwl.nhs.uk and click on the Breast Screening for Beauty banner on the homepage.

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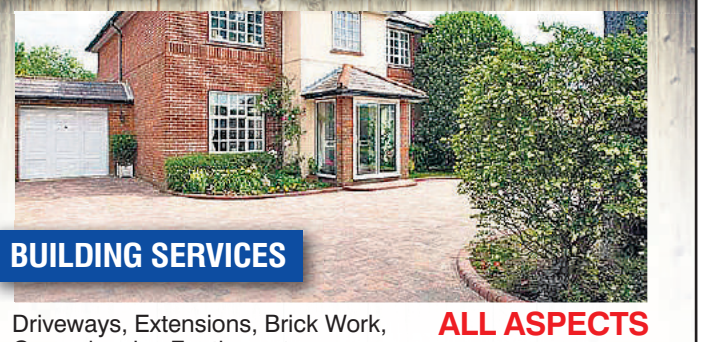

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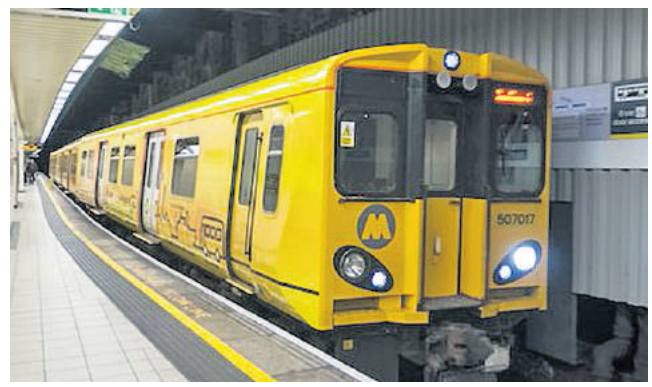
Merseyrail one of top three operators for passenger satisfaction

MERSEYRAIL has been ranked in the National Rail Passenger Survey as one of the top three operators in the country for having the most satisfied passengers.

The rail provider had a 92% 'satisfaction score' in the spring 2018 National Rail Passenger Survey, which is 10% higher than the average of 82% for other regional operators.

Merseyrail out-performed other regional operators in 33 of 41 factors and came second of all operators for both value for money and the experience passengers had at stations.

It also improved on 18 factors compared to the autumn 2017 survey including ticket buying facilities, overall environment and availability of both staff and Wi-Fi.



Merseyrail is still scoring highly on passenger satisfaction despite its 40-year-old trains

Unique

Merseyrail achieved high scores for some key customer service measurements including 93% for the way in which station staff handle passenger requests and 92% for the provision of information about train times.

Andy Heath, managing director at Merseyrail said: "The results of this survey show that Merseyrail still has some of the most satisfied passengers in the country, which is no easy achievement when we're working with 40 year old trains. Our network is unique in how it runs, but to outperform other regional and national operators so significantly is a real testament to the commitment Merseyrail has to provide the best possible service, in all circumstances, to our passengers.

"Whether that's our teams who worked through the night to keep trains running during the freezing conditions earlier this year, the reliable 12 hour service that we have ensured we provide on any days of industrial action or the extra effort that we make to support local events with enhanced services.

"There are factors in this survey that we will certainly look to increase our scores on by making improvements where possible.

"Merseyrail has a range of developments taking place over the next few years, in partnership with Merseytravel, including delivering smart ticketing and the new fleet of trains, arriving in 2020, which we hope will continue to improve the experience for our passengers."

● Northern Rail scored 80% passenger satisfaction in the same survey but it is important to note that passengers were questioned between mid-January and the end of March before the new summer timetable chaos.

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Holidaying firefighter saves five-year-old's life at hotel poolside

Report by **Henry James**

Modest Ged says: "Wherever you are the instinct to save lives just kicks in"

A FIREFIGHTER from Skelmersdale was hailed a hero after saving the life of a five-year-old boy while on holiday in Spain.

Ged Knock, a watch manager with Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service at Bootle, was enjoying a family break in Majorca when the youngster was lifted unresponsive from the hotel swimming pool.

Just feet away, Ged saw what was happening and sprang into action by administering CPR at the poolside.

Recalling the incident which took place earlier this month, he said: "A boy had just been lifted out by a teenager and there was a lady in distress so I went over to help.

"There was no pulse and the boy was completely lifeless. I performed around five or six cycles of mouth-to-mouth and chest compressions (CPR) on him and Eventually I managed to bring him around."

The boy, believed to be from Dublin, was transferred to Palma Hospital and was released after two days.

Ged added: "As a firefighter I am trained in CPR. I'm used to doing it as part of the job and as a team - the difference here was that I was on my own without any equipment.

Firefighter Ged Knock used his training in CPR to save the life of a five-year-old boy while on holiday in Majorca

"But wherever you are, the instinct to save lives just kicks in."

Fellow holidaymaker, Peter Fry, who met Ged on the holiday, posted on Facebook: "Yesterday at the poolside an almost tragic accident unfolded in front of our very eyes. A small boy, five or six years old, was pulled completely lifeless with no pulse out of the pool with his mother screaming in sheer panic.

"It just so happened that my new friend Ged was just about to dive in for a swim just feet away from this poor little boy. He went straight to work on him, taking full control of the situation, giving him mouth-to-mouth and CPR and saved this little boy's life.

"I'm welling up typing this message as it was the most frightening thing that I've seen. Ged was just so professional about it all. He was brilliant and if he wasn't there at the time, God knows what the outcome could have been."

A spokesperson for Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service said: "We commend Ged's actions during his holiday and are very proud to have him as a member of staff here at Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service.

"All of our firefighters undertake basic life support training, including CPR, and, as this case shows, it is an invaluable life-saving skill."

Dads and pupils at the Crow Orchard Primary School Father's Day Breakfast event.

School serves up special Father's Day breakfast

FOLLOWING the success of their Mother's Day celebrations, staff at Crow Orchard Primary decided to treat some of the dads with a special Father's Day Breakfast at the school in School Lane, Skelmersdale.

The event proved to be popular with a good turnout boosted by some male carers and even a few 'gate-crashing' grandads!

Mobile phones were banished by Mrs Johnson, who organised the event with Mrs Murray, Mrs Nicholson and other trusty helpers, and soon everyone was chatting away.

Then things really started to get going when the bacon butties and cups of tea and coffee were provided.

Children whose dads attended joined them in the hall and had the opportunity to make items for the guests.

A number of gifts which had been made up and all pupils in the school were able to buy items to take home for their dads.

One of the dads, Steve Brookes, said: "This was a fantastic idea. I really enjoyed the morning, spending time with my daughter in her school environment, doing crafts, activities and having breakfast.

"It also provided the opportunity to meet other parents and carers in a relaxed setting.

"Mrs Johnson and the other helpers did a brilliant job organising this event which has highlighted the value of fathers and male carers - and it wasn't a bad brew either!"

County council ordered to set aside children's nursing services contract awarded to Virgin Care

Report by **Kenny Parker**

LANCASHIRE County Council has been ordered to set aside the contract awarded to Virgin Care to provide public health nursing services for 0 to 19-year-olds after a court has ruled it had failed in the recording of its moderation process when assessing competing bids.

The council does not have to present the contract for tender again, however, as the court said that all other areas of the council's procurement process were sound.

The authority ran the procurement between September and November last year, with Virgin Care Services Limited coming out as the winning bidder chosen to deliver the county-wide 0 to 19 public health nursing services, which include health visitors and school nurses.

This prompted a legal challenge by Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust and Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation trust, who are currently contracted to deliver the service until March 2019.

Following a hearing at the High Court Mr Justice Stuart-Smith made findings in respect of a number of issues, but found against the trusts on all but one of these.

Although the bidding process will not need to be re-run, the court ruled that "the decision of the council to award the contract to Virgin must be set aside".

It found that the county council's records of its moderation process fell short of the standards required to evidence the reasons for the scores awarded to the bidders.

Moderation is the final stage of the procurement process. It involves individual panel members meeting to discuss their scores for each specific question and their reasons for them so the panel can reach a final consensus score.

County Councillor Shaun Turner, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said the county council was "disappointed" with the High Court ruling.

County Councillor Shaun Turner, Lancashire's cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "Putting services out to the market is not a political decision, it is simply part of what the county council is required to do in order to meet its legal obligations.

"Although we're disappointed in the outcome of this judgement, we are reassured with the exception of the moderation element the county council's procurement processes was appropriate and that individual panel members were not found to be at fault.

"However, following this judgement, we accept that we cannot award the contract at this time."

West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper welcomed the decision. She said: "I am pleased that the judge set aside the decision to award Lancashire County Council's children's health services to Virgin Care, the handling of the process was poor and showed a determination to privatise even more services in Lancashire.

"I hope LCC learn the lessons delivered by this decision and the arrogant, incompetent way they counted on others not to take them to court and that this is the last we hear of dubious processes in which LCC award contracts.

'Chaotic'

"This is public money and there should always be openness and transparency."

And County Councillor John Fillis, deputy leader of the Labour group on the county council, commented: "The Conservatives in Lancashire have been stopped once again from privatising public services, in this case our children's health services.

"We have had Lancashire Fleet Services, One Connect and now Virgin Health Care all stopped due to a lack of sound legal process.

"This is on top of them being stopped twice to re-organise the senior management team at the county council as their actions were considered illegal.

"We have demanded that the Conservative Government steps in to sort out the chaotic Conservative council.

"Unfortunately the Government is turning a blind eye to this mess which will cost the people of Lancashire millions of pounds at a time when services are being cut and council tax is going up."

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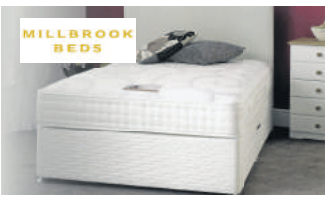

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OLD BED RECYCLING SERVICE

The Skem Men-Aces squad celebrate their victory at the George Best Disability Tournament with Olympic legend Dame Mary Peters

Men-Aces are simply the Best!

Town's disability football team triumph in competition named after football legend George

NOT satisfied with winning tournaments in this country, the Skem Men-Aces have added to their trophy haul 'over the water' by triumphing in the George Best Disability Tournament in Northern Ireland.

And to crown their glory they received the trophy from Olympic legend, Dame Mary Peters.

Held in Belfast, the event is a five-a-side cup competition organised by the Irish FA and attracted 50 teams from the length and breadth of the UK.

The first day saw very strong winds prevail but the Men-Aces adapted by keeping the ball on the ground and their short passing game paid off with three wins, one draw and one loss pitting them in good position for day two.

The second day saw them up against some top class teams, including Jersey, and they also managed to beat Solihull who were the favourites.

In the semi-final they met a big Belfast team but kept their cool to win 1-0.

The final against Sutton Coalfield was a tense affair and the teams were still goalless after extra time.

With the crowds two to three deep in places around the pitch, the game went to penalties with each team allotted three penalties.

Delighted

Men-Aces goalie Haydn Pulford saved a thunderous shot to thwart Sutton's first penalty taker, then Ste Rimmer converted the Skem side's first.

The Men-Aces' second penalty was saved and Sutton scored to level.

However, Theo Duke then converted the Men-Aces' third and from what proved to be the last kick of the game, Haydn saved again to clinch victory for his delighted teammates.

Carl and Mim Eaton from the Men-Aces said: "Haydn showed his magic and was swamped by all the players and coaches.

"All the lads were a credit and picking up the trophy from Dame Mary Peters was a magical moment. It was a hard couple of days, and the win was well deserved.

"Our social media account crashed with well-done messages."

After the presentation former Olympic gold medallist, Dame Mary Peters, said: "I think it's just amazing that everybody is given the opportunity to take part in sport. It enhances their lives in a great way.

"It's what George Best would have wanted. The George Best Foundation and the Mary Peters Trust all coming together with the help of the Irish FA. Sport changes life and makes sure that every young person can enjoy sport."

School earns top marks!

Primary celebrates 'outstanding' archdiocese inspectors' report

Report by **Henry James**

STAFF, pupils and governors at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School in Skelmersdale are celebrating after being adjudged 'outstanding' by inspectors from Liverpool Archdiocese.

Deputy headteacher, Ann Naylor, who took a leading role in preparing for the inspection, said: "All of the people who are part of our school, feel that it is a very special, welcoming place.

"As the report says, relationships at every level are outstanding and that is the key to our success."

Ecstatic

A spokesperson for the school in Blakehall, Digmoor, added: "The report certainly shows that the school is a hive of activity, citing plentiful after-school clubs available to children, as well as many offsite trips, including a recent residential visit to London, during which the children visited the Houses of Parliament, alongside many other attractions."

And headteacher, Terry Naylor, commented: "We are all ecstatic about the report.

Pupils from St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary which has been rated 'outstanding' by inspectors

"I am particularly pleased with the praise given to the outstanding quality of teaching and learning, which recognises the hard work that the staff put in to ensure that lessons have that extra something special."

The report also details the 'warm level of support' given by parents, one of whom is quoted as saying: "My child thoroughly enjoys going to St. Francis'. I have chosen this school for my daughter based upon the good, solid values and attitudes that are taught and promoted throughout the school and our community."

Free craft sessions at libraries

LANCASHIRE libraries are running free weekly 'craft and chat' sessions to give people the opportunity to meet with others who share similar creative interests.

The sessions are two-hours long and are normally held from 1.30 to 3.30pm with activities including knitting, embroidery and crochet.

They aim to inspire and encourage like-minded people to meet, share their enthusiasm, swap ideas and to have a chance to socialise.

County Councillor Peter Buckley, Lancashire County Council's cabinet member for community and cultural services, said: "These sessions should make it easy for people to take part in an activity that they enjoy on their doorstep whilst socialising with others who enjoy doing the same activities. They are free to attend, to make them as easy and accessible as possible and to encourage people to take part and enjoy their creative hobby."

To find out if sessions are being held in a library near you, visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries.

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Finance manager quits her job to help tackle loneliness in the community

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A FORMER company finance manager has persevered against the odds to set up a community interest company to raise awareness of loneliness and social isolation.

UCAN Trust (United Community Action Network) was set up in 2015 and is based at Burscough Football Club.

Veronica Swift, one of its three directors, took voluntary redundancy from her job as a finance manager with the English Speaking Board, based in Ormskirk, in order to pursue her dream which she says she is passionate about.

While it has taken three years to get the initiative to where it is now she has been working on the project since 2008.

Her colleagues, who still have other jobs, are Yvonne Killingbeck and Debra Moore both from Southport. They hope to work with a range of agencies to tackle social isolation and loneliness, connect communities and improve lives.

The three women held the initiative's first public event last Saturday. Setting out from Burscough Football Club, UCAN Trust organised a six-kilometre walk by the Leeds-Liverpool Canal finishing at the Bridge pub in Burscough, taking in "views of the canal, architecture, wildlife narrow boats and quaint waterside pubs" along the way.

Veronica Swift who has pursued her passion to set up a company which tackles loneliness and social isolation in the community

The event also featured live entertainment from Mr Motivator, Brian Smith, of UK Premier Quo Tribute Band and there was the opportunity to donate to charities Mind, Alzheimer's Society and Scope.

Veronicasaid: "I have been working on UCAN Trust CIC, a not-for-profit, community action network, since completing my masters degree in business management, in 2008.

"Along the way I have had funding applications rejected, community work applications rejected, applications to join research groups rejected - but all those rejections have only served to reinforce my passion and enthusiasm for tackling the growing epidemic of loneliness and social isolation felt by children, young adults and families in our communities."

And she had the following message for anyone in the community who does feel isolated or lonely: "Don't ever give up. UCAN be the change you want to see!"

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Veterans' join campaign against solar farm plan

Report by **Henry James**

MEMBERS of the Skelmersdale Veterans' Association have pledged their support to residents campaigning against plans to build a solar farm in Lathom's green belt on a site which they claim was used to bury horses used in the First World War.

Lightsource BP and NSG propose to place the solar installation at Lord's Cottage, Hall Lane, which was part of the Lathom Park estate and a place where more than 200,000 horses were trained for service in the 1914-18 war.

Alan Lewis and Tommy Creevy from Skelmersdale Veterans' Association have visited the application site and to date, the veterans have collected more than 350 signatures on a petition registering their objections to the plan.

Wendy Ford speaking on behalf of Lathom residents against the proposals, commented: "The field has never been ploughed in 100 years, in honour of the Remount Depot - not even in the Second World War when every available plot of land was used for growing food.

"NSG have no right to ruin Lathom's proud history by covering the Remount field in solar panels, cameras and high fences. Also, we must not forget the wildlife that use the field such as deer, owls, bats and songbirds.

"Any solar farm application has to have very special if not 'compelling' circumstances to allow the application to succeed. There are no very special circumstances in this application.

Skelmersdale veterans with Lathom residents against the solar farm.

"NSG may be a large employer but the majority of staff live some distance away. This solar farm will not affect them in any way, unlike the residents of Lathom, who would be left with this appalling industrial complex for 30 years plus.

Consulted

"There is no public benefit, the only ones to gain in this are NSG by saving on their electricity bill, and Lightsource the developer in profits."

A Lightsource BP spokesperson commented: "We are committed to engaging with local residents on all applications. We have consulted widely with the community about our proposals for this site, including writing to 720 residents within a 2km radius of the site and holding an information event. The vast majority of the feedback has been supportive of our proposal.

"The solar installation will also help meet carbon reduction targets, saving an estimated 908 tonnes of carbon emissions each year - the equivalent of taking 193 family cars off the road.

"As part of the thorough assessment process heritage experts undertook a geophysical survey, which was reviewed in light of the reports regarding the possibility of a war horse burial site being present on the proposed land in February 2018. This found no evidence of horse burials within the proposed development site."

Players, officials and guests at Skelmersdale Junior Football League presentation at Up Holland Labour Club

Skelmersdale Junior Football League celebrate another successful season

MORE than 1,000 people attended Skelmersdale Junior Football League's end-of-season presentation at Up Holland Labour Club.

As well as presenting trophies to teams who have been successful in competitions, the event also recognises all those that have participated in the league ensuring that every player walks away with an award.

League chairman, Joe Nelson, said: "The Skelmersdale Junior Football League had another very successful season, even though we had to postpone some weeks due to the adverse weather conditions.

"We managed to see a full programme through with the satisfying knowledge that we had fewer games called off than most of the neighbouring leagues and indeed some semi-professional sides.

"There was also a regular turn-out of more than 1,000 people passing through Liverpool Road, including team officials and spectators.

"The presentation is the highlight of the season and is attended by players, coaches and parents, grandparents, guardians and friends."

Also in attendance were Deputy Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Gaynor Owen; Councillor Terry Aldridge; Andy Gray, manager of Accrington Stanley under-18s; Everton FC scout, Jack Clarke; and Gordon Johnson, representing Liverpool County FA.

And Mr Nelson added: "The season would not have been such a success without the assistance of Paula Campbell and staff at West Lancs Council.

"And thanks also go to our dedicated committee who have worked tirelessly throughout the season and beyond to ensure that the league programme, although not without its little hiccups, ran its full course."

The Twinkle House staff who took part in the Dementia Friends session

Twinkle House team sign up to Dementia Friends initiative

LOCAL Dementia Friends Champion, Joe Sherville has held a Dementia Friends session with the team at Twinkle House Wellness and Sensory Centre in Skelmersdale.

Jill Appleton, charity manager at Twinkle House, said: "The session will help us to ensure people living with dementia are best supported when they use our services or facilities."

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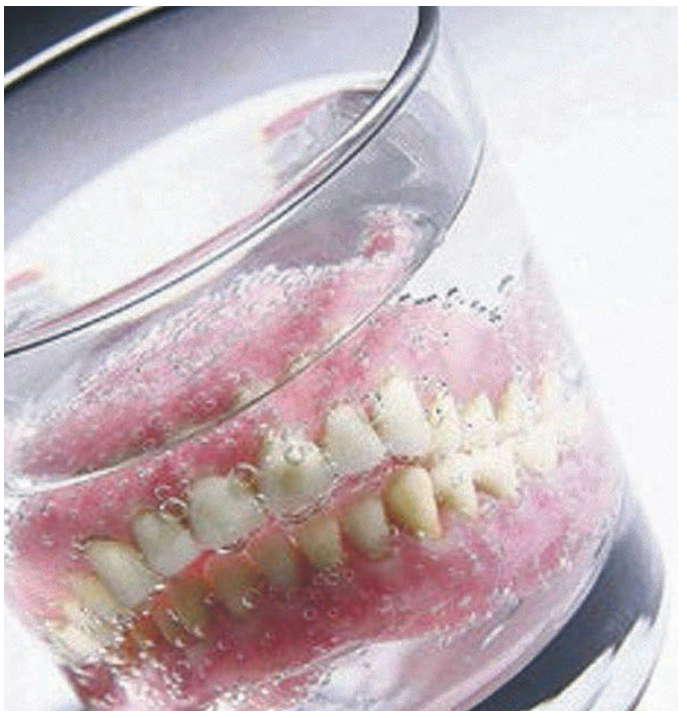

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Dr McGovern continued: "With dental implants the roots of your missing teeth are replaced with the highly-specialised titanium cylinder which actually integrates with your bone and becomes a part of you!

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• Dr Marius McGovern, clinical director at Liverpool Implant and Aesthetic Dental Spa

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Deadline looms for bids for funding of projects to tackle reoffending

Organisations in county urged to apply for share of police commissioner's £200k pot

Report by **Henry James**

Clive Grunshaw

LANCASHIRE'S Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, is encouraging organisations in the county to bid for funding to deliver projects to work with offenders and help integrate them back into the community - before it's too late.

The deadline for bids for a share of the £200k Reducing Reoffending Fund is 5pm on Monday, July 2.

The fund is part of Mr Gunshaw's key priority to tackle crime and reoffending in the county and support those who have offended to not do so again.

Four local Reducing Reoffending Boards, covering the North, East, South and West of the county, will play a key role in helping the commissioner fund projects, making sure successful bids address local issues and priorities within individual communities.

Earlier this year, Jerry Graham, formerly a senior officer at Lancashire Constabulary and most recently Chief Constable in Cumbria, was appointed as independent chair of these boards, which include representatives from partners including Lancashire Constabulary, local authorities and the regional Community Rehabilitation Company.

Mr Grunshaw, said: "Policing alone cannot prevent people reoffending and working in partnership with organisations across the county and building on the work already being done is crucial in meeting my priority to tackle crime and reoffending."

"I know from seeing programmes that have received funding in the past the real difference they can make in people's lives and the local boards will play a key role in identifying local concerns and making sure that projects which receive funding can make a real difference and turn people's lives around."

The commissioner's reducing reoffending funding is currently open for applications, with the current application window open until 5pm on Monday, July 2.

Any organisations that wish to apply for funding or require more information, can visit www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/our-money/grant-funding/lancashire-reducing-reoffending/.

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Libraries to host free work clubs to help jobseekers

Report by **Kenny Parker**

LOCAL libraries in Lancashire are hosting free 'work clubs' to provide help and support for jobseekers.

Lancashire County Council's library service has collaborated with Lancashire Adult Learning to provide the clubs, run by teachers, offering advice and support on finding work and training opportunities.

They are held in local libraries to make them as accessible as possible.

Three-hour sessions are available for up to six weeks and can also help people with their covering letters and application forms.

Anyone attending the sessions will receive one-to-one advice from the teacher when they arrive to help make the most of their time. Sessions are open to all adults over 19.

The free online programme, Access to Jobseeker Skills, is also offered and includes guidance on job hunting, interviews and starting work.

People can access this service from their library or home by logging in using the number on their library card.

County Councillor Peter Buckley believes the weekly work clubs will give jobseekers opportunities, make contacts and get help.

County Councillor Peter Buckley, Lancashire's cabinet member for community and cultural services, said: "These weekly work clubs are run in libraries, at the heart of the community, so that they are easy to get to. They provide people with advice and support which is totally confidential.

"Anyone ready to apply for work can get help with writing their CV, covering letters and application forms, so that they present themselves as well as possible to a potential employer.

"They can also practise being in an interview situation and get tips to help them with this.

"The Find a Job facility is also available. This helps people to find and apply for the latest jobs, locally, nationally and abroad.

Essential

"The work clubs are an opportunity to meet other people, exchange skills, share experiences, find opportunities, make contacts and get help."

Lancashire Adult Learning's head of curriculum, Nicola Hall, said: "Work clubs provide an essential service to those learners who need to develop employability skills, or need support and assistance when applying for jobs. They cater for all unemployed learners, from anyone who is unemployed with multiple barriers to accessing the workplace, to those who just need help with creating a CV."

To find out more about work clubs in your area visit www.bit.ly/lancslearning or call 0300 123 6703.

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Community turns out in force for 41st Newburgh Fair

THE sun shone and the community turned out in force for the 41st Newburgh Fair.

Theme for this year's event on Saturday, June 23, was 'Our Wonderful World' and youngsters made costumes in special workshops to interpret the theme, which was prompted by the BBC TV's Blue Planet series.

Proceedings started with the procession at noon and the theme for the day was also reflected in a craft fair with competitions for Wonderful World photos, drawings, paintings and handmade items.

Other attractions included the annual Rose Queen crowning, the Newburgh Morris dancers and clog dancing, while the popular village dog show was revived for this year's event.

Saturday was the culmination of a week of events leading up to the big day including the Douglas Valley Lions Club bingo night, a Folk Night with the 'Bolton Bullfrog' Bernard Wrigley and a community quiz night.

Left: Newburgh Womens Institute mark their golden anniversary in last Saturday's village fair parade.

Right: The new Newburgh Fair Rose Queen, Alex and her attendants get ready to set out on the procession.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Let's have fewer councillors and more police to help keep us safe

I WAS gutted to read in the Champion about the 71-year-old street pastor being assaulted in Ormskirk town centre.

I hope that she recovers quickly. As for those that could hurt the lady in this way, well, the words I have for them I am not allowed to write except that I hope they admit to what they did.

Once again this also makes me ask the far bigger question of the council of how can we afford to let a new councillor resign and spend on another by-election (I read somewhere the cost should be about £8,000 but have no confirmation of this) but not put more money into policing?

The pastors do a great job and are very needed, but they like the rest of us should be safe.

A few years ago we also had a very good neighbourhood watch but I don't hear of them now and in any case the safety of people in the town should be ensured by a decent trained force.

That's not to say the police aren't good, but when they have to run on such low resources they cannot wave wands!

Once more I even ask the question (like many others in this area) why do we pay so much for so many councillors? Are they the way to cut back on unnecessary spending?

Constantly we are told we need to pay in order to recycle rubbish (now a brown bin, which colour next year?) while losing healthy school meals for kids; having to work when disabled; and losing a good bus service (the 375 in the Scott estate area to be replaced by a bus which doesn't go to Southport and only runs until 5pm or is it that late).

I wrote not long ago about the correctness of volunteers being asked to assist with the upkeep of our area (the councillor did write back to me to tell me this was allowed and a good idea).

All these cuts but now we have a councillor for just six weeks and an expensive by-election to fund.

May I once again say I am very sorry for the lady pastor that got hurt and let's hope more money is put into the police services in this area.

Janet Ingman, by email

Our mucky roadways and pavements are more like a Third World country

THEY say that one swallow doesn't make a summer, so imagine my surprise when I saw two small mechanised road sweepers in Up Holland two weeks ago.

I had not previously seen any since they migrated back to Ormskirk in autumn 2017.

Alas, I now suspect that they had wandered off course from Wigan, as the road from Orrell to Up Holland has been swept, but not School Lane, Parliament Street, Grove Road.

The roadways and pavements in Up Holland are messy with last year's leaves and leaf mould, the leaves and branches from the recent gales and the rubble from potholes.

Consequently, a number of grids are blocked or partially blocked.

The drive into Up Holland from Orrell is like driving into a Third World country. The badly-filled trench on Grove Road makes one quarter of the roadway unusable, if one wants to avoid shredding one's tyres.

This is a disgrace in a (supposedly) developed country.

Disgusted ratepayer,
Muckyville, aka Up Holland

PICTURE of the week

All creatures great and small joined the congregation at St Peter's Church, Formby last Sunday for their annual Pets Service of Thanksgiving. Photograph by Martyn Snape

Drop us a line

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

Setting the record straight on Brighter Future Workshop trainees

RE: The letter by Concerned Reader, Ormskirk (Letters, June 20).

Firstly, thank you so much for your kind words regarding our charity, Brighter Future Workshop. The possible closure will indeed have a huge detrimental effect on the local community and in particular our trainees.

Now, onto your issue with our 'trainees!' You are correct in your observation that our trainees pay to attend and train at our workshop.

However, what you are failing to see is that they are paying for an education. We provide a vocational, hands-on training programme which allows our trainees to learn, not only the skills required to maintain and fix mobility equipment, but life skills.

Skills that will provide them with further opportunities and for some of our trainees it will, and has, led them to gain full-time, paid employment outside of Brighter Future Workshop.

Does this not sound like any other educational setting after the age of 18? Do young adults pay to receive further education at university? The answer is yes!

There is little to no funding whatsoever for young adults after the age of 18, regardless of if they have a disability or not. We are not alone in how we operate. This educational system exists nationwide.

It costs £2,000 per day to open our doors to our trainees and customers. We have to make sure that the staff they work with, usually on a one-to-one basis depending on the trainees' needs, are fully trained and can support them to the fullest.

Indeed, they do work incredibly hard, but we are still training them, we are teaching them. Our trainees are young adults, willing and eager to learn.

They are not isolated and there is no split between staff and students, we all wear the same uniform, we are all part of the same team. To them, they come to work, they are trainees, not just young adults with disabilities.

As a team, we are fighting to stay open, we can and we will survive.

Sara Murphy,
Brighter Future Workshop Ltd.

Government should stop pandering to motorists and tackle speeding and pavement parking

I TOTALLY agree with the idea to reduce the speed limit on County Road.

In fact, I consider that there should be a speed limit of 30mph on all minor roads.

Another issue that needs consideration is parking on pavements. An MP put in a Private Members Bill on this matter but the Government failed to support it and instead announced a consultation on it.

Surprisingly, nothing has resulted. What really happens with consultations is that the Government doesn't want anything to upset motorists and kicks it into the long grass.

We have a Chancellor who, when he became Transport Minister, stated that there would be an end to the war on the motor car.

He has frozen fuel duty for eight years which has cost the Government some £6 billion and at the same time has agreed rail fare increases by 30% and seen local bus services decimated.

J. M. Berry,
Prescot Road, Aughton

Concourse mini roundabout is confusing for drivers

WHAT should a driver do when approaching the Concourse mini roundabout?

If you approach from the Ecumenical centre, vehicles assume they have right of way to turn right into the Concourse car park despite a 'give way' sign and a triangle painted in the road informing them to give way.

Cars coming from the Co-op Bank side have no sign restrictions but they give way to cars turning into the Concourse.

The mini roundabout is a free-for-all.

Can someone please explain how this roundabout works and who should give way?

Chris Carr,
Abbeywood, Skelmersdale

Keep up the good work!

I WOULD just like to echo the sentiments in the letter (Champion, June 20) praising our NHS and the great job they do against all the odds.

In recent years I have had more occasion to call on the service and despite one or two 'hiccups' - i.e. lengthy waiting times - have been most grateful for the excellent care provided.

I know it's not easy with funding cuts etc., but I say keep up the good work!

Grateful 60-something, by email

Crowds flock to Burscough Heritage Festival weekend

Organisers delighted as visitors get into spirit of event's 1940s theme

VISITORS to the annual heritage festival weekend in Burscough, which this year had a 1940s theme, got in to the spirit of things by dressing up in period costume.

Now in its eighth year, the nostalgia extravaganza saw the Burscough Wharf courtyard double as a dance floor as festival-goers enjoyed the strains of 1940s-style singer, Lancashire Belle, Jane Francis.

The event, organised by Burscough Heritage Group and Burscough Wharf and supported by the Slipway pub, Burscough Parish Council and West Lancashire Antiques, also saw the wharf filled with jeeps, tractors and stalls, while one of the units was also used as a pop-up heritage centre featuring a 1940s kitchen.

Smiling

Sunday saw the ever-popular raft race which was won by Kenyon Brothers Haulage with their design based on a lorry and earned them a trophy and a bottle of bubbly. The team from Booths supermarket came in a close second.

Colin Wareing from the Burscough Heritage Group said: "It was another brilliant weekend and great to have the weather and so many smiling folks.

"Special thanks go to every one who helped organise the event, turned up dressed in 1940s costume, or built a raft.

"Here's looking to next year and another great event for the village."

The winning team from Kenyon Brothers Haulage in Sunday's raft race cross the line in front of a packed Burscough Wharf. Photo by Colin Wareing.

Festival visitors step to it on the Burscough Wharf 'dance floor' to songs from the 1940s performed by Lancashire Belle, Jane Francis. Photo by Colin Wareing.

Police step up bid to catch park arsonists

POLICE are increasing patrols of Coronation Park in Ormskirk following the latest incident of arson which saw a wheelchair and swing set alight.

West Lancs Council has said it will step up surveillance of the park after the fire service was called out to deal with a deliberate fire for the ninth time since last May.

The latest incident involved a wheelchair being placed on a swing in the play area before being set alight.

Other incidents have involved rubbish fires and the burning of trees, bushes and grass cuttings.

The fire service said it suspected that youths were responsible and planned to contact local schools with a view to sending all parents and guardians an email.

Anyone with information about the incdients can call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Hillsborough campaigner to receive honorary doctorate from Edge Hill

Professor's near 30-year fight for justice to be recognised at university's summer graduation week

Report by **Kenny Parker**

HILLSBOROUGH campaigner Professor Phil Scraton is among the inspirational figures to be awarded with honorary doctorates during Edge Hill University's Summer 2018 graduation week.

Other recipients of the award are DJ Janice Long; David Yates, director of the final four Harry Potter films; Jacky Hayden, former Dean of Postgraduate Medical Studies at Health Education England; and Dawn Airey, chief executive of Getty Images.

Receiving their awards during graduation week (Monday, July 16 to Friday, July 20) each of the recipients will be recognised by Edge Hill for their contributions to society that resonate with the university's values, teaching and research.

Professor Phil Scraton set up the Centre for Studies in Crime and Social Justice at Edge Hill, was a founder member of the charity INQUEST and his work on the 1989 Hillsborough Stadium disaster and its aftermath was the driving force in a campaign for justice that has encompassed almost three decades.

Dawn Airey, who was brought up in Preston, has run, managed or chaired leading

Professor Phil Scraton is to be recognised by Edge Hill University for his work as a driving force in the Hillsborough disaster campaign

TV channels in the UK including ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5, and now leads Getty Images, the world-leading creators and distributors of award-winning still imagery, video, music and multimedia products.

Professor Jacky Hayden was Dean of Postgraduate Medical Studies at Health Education England, working across the North West. She was awarded a CBE in 2013, the same year she was named as one of Health Service Journal's Top 50 Inspirational Women.

Janice Long became the first female DJ to be given a daily show on national radio. Over the years she has worked for GLR, XFM, Radio 5, Radio Merseyside, presented Live Aid and established Crash FM (relaunched as Juice FM) in Liverpool.

Privileged

David Yates is director of the final four films in the Harry Potter series. Thanks to his film and television success, St Helens-born David is considered to be one of Britain's most celebrated directors.

Edge Hill vice-chancellor, Dr John Cater, said: "Once again the university is privileged to have an exemplary list of honorary graduates, leaders in their fields, joining those who will be awarded their undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

"For everyone this a wonderful time of the year, and the celebrations will have a special resonance following the university's shortlisting for the Global Teaching Excellence Award and our identification as the Times/Sunday Times' University of the Year for Student Retention."

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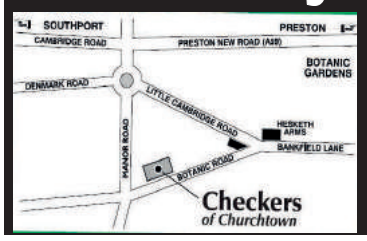

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Breathe Easy Group members Irene Norman, John Kitson and Patricia Ireland present the cheque to representatives from Queenscourt Hospice

Breathe Easy group's helping hand for hospice

THE West Lancashire and Southport Breathe Easy Group have presented a cheque for £792 to Queenscourt Hospice towards the cost of provision of home oxygen for its 'At Home' patients.

Queenscourt has 10 beds for in-patients but also helps many more patients whose wish it is to stay in their own homes.

Patricia Ireland from the Breathe Easy group, which meets at the Girl Guides HQ in Green Lane, Ormskirk, said: "The hospice also does wonderful work in providing facilities and care for day patients."

Meanwhile members of the group have also started singing before their meetings, with the aim of helping to improve their lungs.

Patricia added: "The British Lung Foundation is strongly recommending that local groups like ours get involved with singing.

"Quite apart from the social side, this is such an uplifting activity, which puts everyone on a high!

"There is also the very strong impetus to sing because it stretches our lungs and helps to improve our lung capacity!

"Whatever limitations one has, after a half-hour singing session, improvements can be clearly felt. We sing ballads and amusing songs, and the sessions are great."

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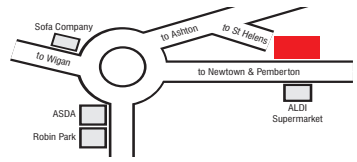

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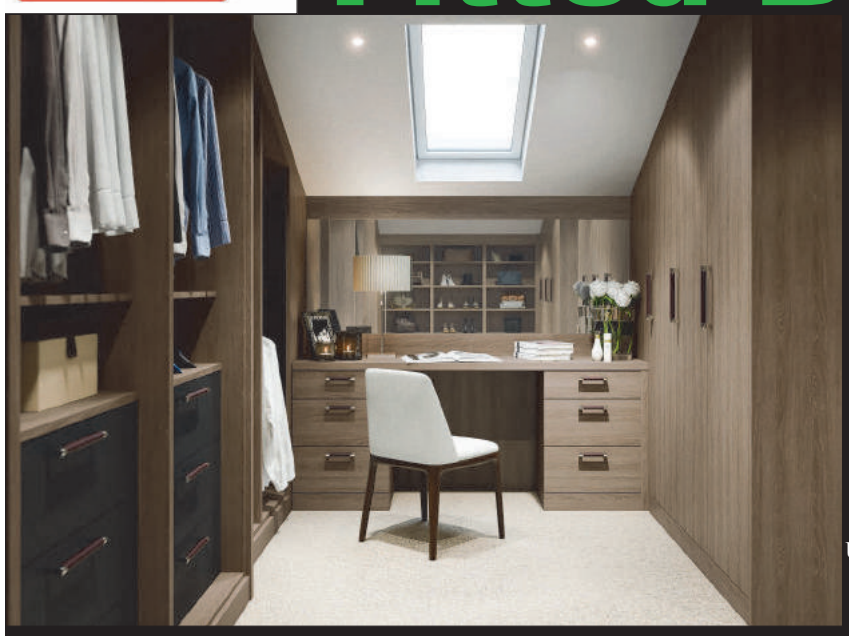

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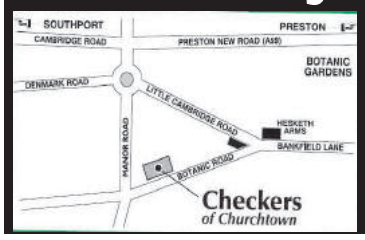

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Witness appeal after village brawl

POLICE are appealing for witnesses and information after a mass brawl outside a village pub left a woman with a fractured hip.

Officers were called to the Village Inn pub in Marks Square, Tarleton, at about 7.30pm on Saturday, June 9 following reports that a group of up to 20 people were fighting.

During the brawl, a 57-year-old woman was struck to the face and fell to the floor fracturing her hip.

Sergeant Craig Appleton, said: "This is a shocking incident where a completely innocent bystander has been subjected to an unprovoked attack that left her with serious injuries and we would encourage members of the public to come forward if they witnessed this incident or if they have any information which could assist."

Anyone with information is asked to call 101 quoting log reference 1492 of June 9 or email 101@lancashire.pnn.police.uk. Alternatively you can call independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Quilters' work on show at village hall exhibition

THREE local quilting groups will be holding an exhibition of their work at Parbold Village Hall on Saturday June 30.

Starting at 10am, items made by members of the Douglas Valley, Croston and Quirky Quilters will be on sale.

There will also be a tombola and raffle featuring a handmade quilt and other prizes.

A donation from the proceeds of the exhibition will be given to the North West Air Ambulance.

Admission is £2 and refreshments will be available.

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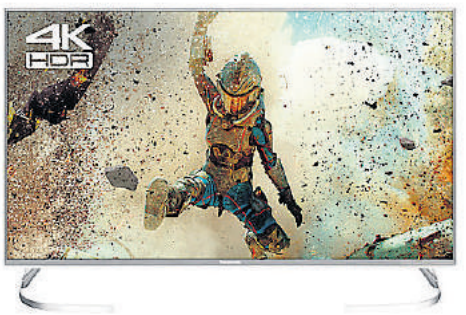

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The Southport Sausage and Bacon Cycling Club in Rhayader, Wales, during their epic ride

Sausage butty-loving pals tackle three-day bike ride for Alder Hey

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A WEST Lancs businessman and a team of fellow 'pleasure' cyclists have raised more than £8,500 for Alder Hey Children's Hospital after a gruelling three-day ride the length of Wales.

Andy MacGregor, owner of the Martland Mill business centre in Burscough, joined six fellow members of the Southport Sausage and Bacon Cycling Club, to tackle the challenge of cycling 250 miles from Holyhead to Cardiff.

Although Andy is from Ormskirk most of the cycling friends are from Southport and they like to stop off for sausage and bacon sandwiches during their weekly 40-mile ride - hence the unusual name!

Writing on his fundraising web page, Andy states: "We don't consider ourselves athletes, nor does anyone who knows us."

The businessman first raised money for charity last year when he cycled 200 miles coast-to-coast for Stand up To Cancer, raising £2,500.

Andy and his pals had hoped to raise around £7,000 from their Welsh marathon but thanks to generous donations by family, friends, business colleagues and clients, they have raised in excess of £8,500.

Reports from Andy's diary for the trip show that he was feeling the strain even before the first day was over, after being on the road for nearly 11 hours. But, after having "a good chat with myself", the following day he was back in the saddle as the pals cracked on with their journey.

At the beginning of the last day the team were feeling sore but a photo shoot in their Alder Hey vests gave them a timely boost. And after another 12 hours on the road - including an accident which involved a dash to a repair shop - they were overjoyed when they made the final ride into Cardiff.

Andy wrote: "The sense of achievement for us all was mega - partners were phoned and texts sent. I even got one from my mum who still worries about me even at 48!"

The team's fundraising page can be found at mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/ssabcc until Monday, July 9.

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Hospital hosts fun day for diabetes patients and families

MORE than 120 families and children with diabetes took part in a fun day organised by the children's diabetes team at Ormskirk Hospital.

There were musical performances from patients, a bake sale, a reptile show, games and a raffle at the event at St Anne's Hall in Ormskirk.

Patient Erin Simpson, 15, wrote on the team's Facebook page: "It was so lovely to be at this event today. It was great to meet other diabetics and see the young children not letting their illnesses stop them from doing what they love. I am so lucky to have such an amazing team of doctors and nurses looking after me."

Dr May Ng, consultant paediatric endocrinologist, said: "It is important to hold such events to give families and children with diabetes an opportunity to meet socially, away from hospitals and clinics. We saw some amazing performances from our children with diabetes today and I am so proud of them."

The Southport and Ormskirk Paediatric diabetes team, which cares for 150 children with type 1 and type 2 diabetes across West Lancs, Southport and Formby, has won several national awards.

● Right: Staff and guests at the Diabetes Family Fun Day event

Couple set to open 'luxury hotel' for dogs!

A DOG-loving couple are set to open what they describe as a "luxury hotel" for four-legged friends.

Annmarie and Julie Graham-Jones say that dog owners going on holiday will be able to leave their pets at The Hotel Pawsifornia safe in the knowledge that they will get the very best of treatment.

Situated on the Simonswood Industrial Park, near Bickerstaffe, the hotel, due to open officially this weekend, will have eight rooms all featuring underfloor heating and individual lighting.

And the couple say there is even a TV lounge where the dogs can relax after a long day of exercise and walks!

Former social worker Annmarie and former mental health worker Julie, have already opened a dog friendly-cafe at the site, named Paws4Food.

Annmarie, who insists the new venture is a hotel for dogs NOT a kennels, says it means pets can enjoy a holiday too while their owners are away!

See our Picture of the Week on page 16

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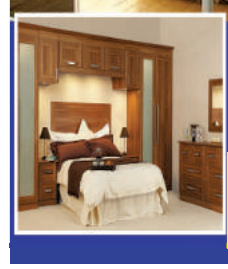

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Sporty youngsters do battle to clinch county games final spot

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Ormskirk School super eight athletics team who will be representing West Lancs at the SPAR games finals.

SCHOOLS from across West Lancashire have been battling it out for a chance to represent the borough at the SPAR Lancashire School Games county finals to be held at Blackpool's Stanley Park on Tuesday, July 3.

And the schools which will represent the borough in cricket, rounders, tri golf, super eight athletics and inclusive football have now been decided following five district-wide competitions

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College took on Burscough Priory Science College, St Bede's Catholic High School and Lathom High School in a under-13s inclusive football tournament held at Ormskirk School, coming out on top and clinching a place at the county finals.

Contested

The Year 7 super eight athletics competition saw all seven West Lancashire secondary schools battle it out at Edge Hill University, with Ormskirk School clinching the places for both the girls' and boys' events.

Meanwhile, Ormskirk School also took home gold in rounders after competing against six other schools; and Burscough St John's CE Primary took on four other schools in the district's tri golf tournament held at Tarleton Academy, snatching gold after a win.

And eight schools met at Burscough Cricket Club for the district's mixed cricket competition.

The final was contested between Ormskirk's Richard Durning's Endowed Primary and Aughton St Michael's Church of England Primary, with the former coming out on top to earn their place at the county finals in Blackpool.

Chris Hart, school games organiser for West Lancashire, who arranged the events, said: "Huge congratulations to each of our winning schools for securing these highly-coveted places at the SPAR Lancashire School Games. The level of play has been exceptionally high this year so well done to everyone - I'll be cheering on from the sidelines."

More than 3,500 children from schools across Lancashire's 15 districts are competing in a total of 16 sports also including gymnastics, football, athletics, mixed cricket and touch rugby.

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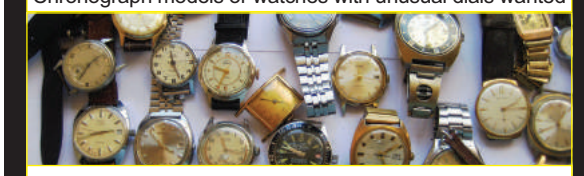

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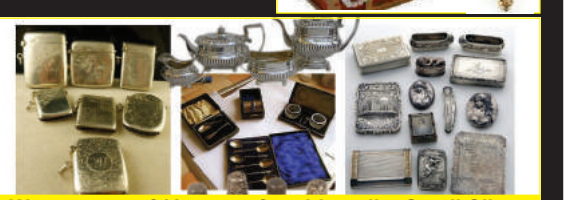

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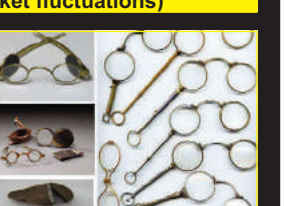

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New exercise programme launched to help patients with breathing problems

A 74-YEAR-OLD Skelmersdale man is among a number of people with respiratory problems being supported to regain their self-confidence and independence on a new exercise programme launched in West Lancashire.

Michael Welby was diagnosed with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) three years ago and has been in and out of hospital since.

The local respiratory service has been supporting Michael with his condition, providing care in his own home to help prevent any further hospital admissions. The exercise programme has been designed to increase independence even further.

The service, run by Virgin Care, is now working in collaboration with Well Skelmersdale to deliver the programme for the first time to people in community centres such as West Lancs Youth Zone.

Michael, one of the first to join the rehabilitation course, said: "I liked the idea of the sessions when I was told about them by my respiratory nurse and I hope that by the end of the programme I will feel fitter and feel better about myself so that I can manage my condition rather that it managing me."

The programme consists of eight weeks of exercise and education sessions tailored to each person's individual needs. It is designed to help people with respiratory problems reduce levels of breathlessness, feel more confident in their ability to carry out daily activities and improve their general health and level of fitness.

Sandra Bonner, head of specialist services for Virgin Care who is leading the programme, said: "All the evidence suggests that pulmonary rehabilitation will improve people's quality of life and their ability to do more without being so breathless.

"Exercise classes are designed around the individual's needs and people will be supported throughout the programme by our respiratory nurses and physiotherapists.

"I hope to see a real difference once the course is completed."

Michael Welby is put through his paces on the new exercise programme

ADVERTISING FEATURE

'Eat More to Weigh Less'

There's no need for anyone looking to lose weight to go hungry, after new research found that filling up on low energy dense foods is more likely to lead to weight loss success than counting calories and cutting portion sizes. The Solutions for Weight through Psychology, Satiation and Satiety study*, led by the University of Leeds and published in the Journal of Nutrition, compared women following Slimming World's Food Optimising eating plan, to another group of women following the NHS Choices programme, which is centred around calorie counting. Unlike a calorie-controlled diet, the Food Optimising plan encourages slimmers to fill up on low energy dense foods (foods that contain fewer calories per gram) including normal everyday foods like fruit and vegetables, lean meat, fish, pasta, rice and eggs freely to satisfy their appetite.

Local Slimming world member Chloe Ritson has lost 3st 2lb since joining her local group in January. She says: ""I had yo yo dieted for years and although I was a little fed up, I thought I was happy at my weight. I did honestly think that I couldn't ever diet again!! Until I started Slimming World!"

She adds "I was a little sceptical before I joined Slimming World – it sounded too good to be true. I always thought the only way to lose weight was to simply eat less or count everything that I ate and drank. I soon learned that wasn't the case – I can enjoy meals like spaghetti bolognese and curries – the list is endless! I've stopped counting, weighing and measuring everything and I've made small changes – like using lean meat, low-calorie cooking spray and adding plenty of fresh vegetables to fill my plate Another huge difference for me has been the group support. I look forward to sharing my success with them, as well as talking through challenges on the more difficult weeks. We always swap great tips and motivation as well as recipes. We're like one big family. Now I'm slimmer I feel so much more happy and confident – and I've got so much more energy too! I've actually started playing tennis and I can't get enough It's been amazing, I feel fitter healthier and much more confident! And I feel like it's been pleasure more then a chore".

If you'd like to lose weight without going hungry check out the attached advert for local group details.

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Sue: 07817 444580

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Sue: 01695 420 305

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Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
6.30pm
Michelle: 07931 125172

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
9.30am & 11.30am
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
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Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD SKELMERSDALE
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5pm & 7pm
Paula: 07484 263698

TUESDAY

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Paula: 07484 263698

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Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
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Tina: 0151 548 4266

MAGHULL
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Emma: 07414 223 617

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
9.30am
Sarah: 07969 395302

UP HOLLAND
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Sarah: 07969 395302

BURSCOUGH
Burscough Cricket Club School Lane
3.30pm, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Kathy: 07815 199346

THURSDAY

AUGHTON
Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane
8.00am & 10.00am
Zoe: 01695 580 966

AUGHTON
Scout and Guide Hut (behind Christ Church), Long Ln
5.30 & 7.30pm
Zoe: 01695 580 966

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
3.00pm 5:00pm & 7.00pm
Sue: 07957 531346

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
9.30am & 11.30am
Jackie: 07888 830892

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
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Sarah: 07792 146342

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SATURDAY

OLD SKELMERSDALE
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ORMSKIRK
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Just a little tolerance can go a long way

A COUPLE of weeks ago I wrote a story for the Aintree and Maghull edition of the Champion about Maghull Town Council's plans for their annual fireworks display this year.

The main theme of this was that this year's display will be 'bigger, better and safer' - highly laudable for sure, but it got me thinking back to Maghull's firework displays of yore, and how our attitudes to safety and possible risk taking have changed in not very many years.

Maghull's annual display is well known throughout Sefton (and indeed beyond) as being one of the best - and certainly the best value - of any even vaguely comparable displays in the area.

But only a very few years ago, though the display itself was of course in the expert hands of professionals, the marshalling of spectators was by volunteer town councillors and parks and gardens staff with the local police officer and perhaps a couple of PCSOs to mingle with them.

Indeed, the council once also had a very popular bonfire, which was only abolished because the fire brigade was too busy on Bonfire Night to ensure it had been sufficiently damped down to be safe.

Now I note that there will be 30 professional stewards at this year's display along with "a dedicated police presence." Don't misunderstand me, I am not criticising the Town Council for going to these lengths. Quite apart from a different health and safety regime, the attitude of visitors themselves has changed too.

As far as I know, no serious incident has ever occurred at a Maghull firework display. The fact these days though is that should there be an accident of any kind, the first instinct is to find someone to blame, and quite possibly sue them.

At the same time, organisers have changed their attitudes too, and the safety culture has become de rigueur. Whatever, it has to be somebody's fault - and that somebody is somehow never 'me.'

I've mentioned before about my mum's annoying habit of telling a young Jim when something had gone awry: "It's your own fault!" As of course it usually was - if only one of personal carelessness. Try telling that to the victim of any accident these days.

I honestly think that, a) just occasionally you should admit that whatever happened was at least to a degree the result of your own lack of judgement; or b) that it probably was the fault of somebody else, but whoever it was quite obviously couldn't realise what would occur.

And no, I'm not saying you should not claim if you receive serious injury to self or property, just that a little tolerance can often go a long way and stop what was a trivial incident spoiling an event or perhaps a good friendship.

Just possibly a dose of 'pick yourself up, dust yourself down' and laugh whatever off might be a far better policy than demanding an inquiry with the idea of a cash payment at the end.

To be fair, if my experience of recent large-scale activities organised by Maghull Town Council is repeated, the presence of professional stewards and police will not mar the event for us ordinary mortals in the least - though the probable expense in these straightened times is food for thought.

Needs must when the devil drives though, and I sincerely wish the council well in its efforts to bring us what should be a wonderful spectacle and a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

A far cry from the wonderfully dangerous but marvelously exciting Bonfire Night we used to have in our back garden when I was a nipper but probably better by far for a couple of generations brought up to expect (and indeed told to do so) everything to be done for them and handed to them on a plate along with the parkin and cups of warming drinks.

Pamela's new book offers a different perspective of First World War

A LOCAL author hosted a special book-signing session to mark the release of her latest work about the First World War.

Former university lecturer Pamela Russell, from Lydiate, held the signing session for her new work, ***Liverpool: Remembering 1914-18*** at the Waterstones store in Church Street, Ormskirk.

Pamela, who has previously written books about children in the Second World War and the 1950s, worked on her latest publication in association with Liverpool's Hornby Library and record office.

An in-depth look at the lives of the people of Liverpool and surrounding areas during the First World War, it tells of how they coped with four years of devastation and also focuses on how women contributed to the war effort.

Former Mayor of Maghull and battlefield tour guide, Bruce Hubbard, said: "Pam's new book is both easily readable and informative. It fills a gap in the library shelf devoted to the Great War, in that it is about those who did not go off to war but stayed at home - the children, elderly, infirm and the women - and what the war was like for them."

A founder member of Maghull and Lydiate Local History Society, Pamela has been president since 1990.

● ***Liverpool: Remembering 1914-18*** is available from Waterstones bookshops in Ormskirk and Liverpool, as well as from Amazon.

Pamela Russell (seated) at the book-signing event at Waterstones in Ormskirk.

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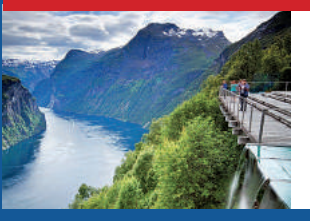

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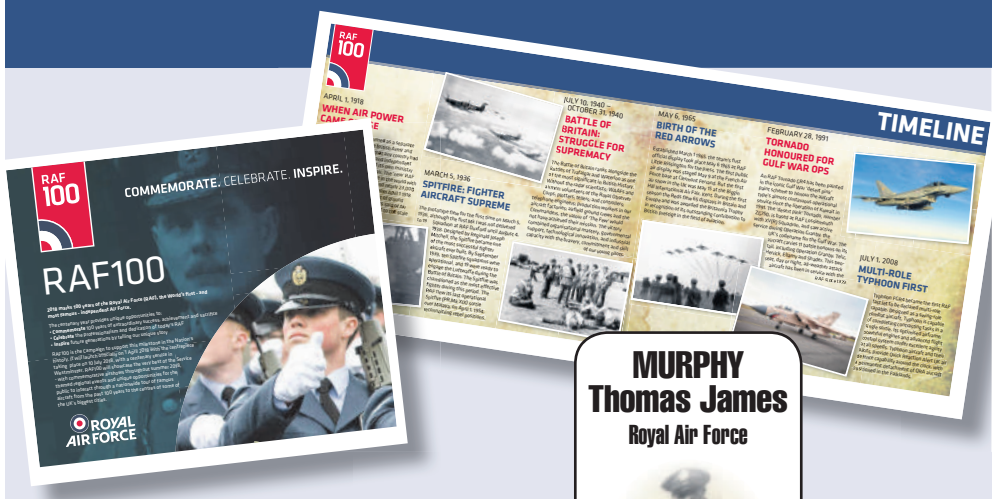

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27th September 1997

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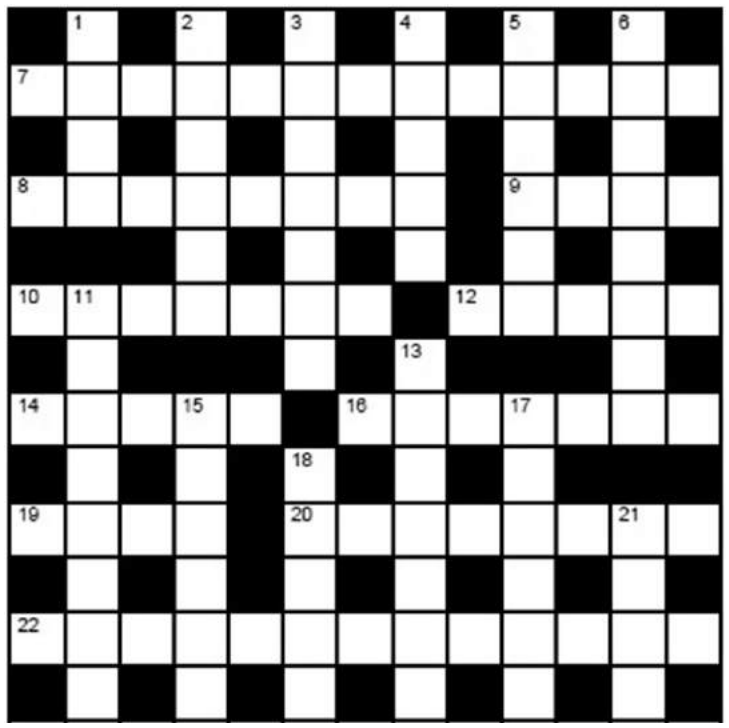

Last week's solutions:
Across: 7. Clergy. 8. Auburn. 9. Ugly. 10. Adherent. 11. Uncouth. 13. Parch. 15. Smock. 17. Spatter. 20. Marmoset. 21. Hack. 22. Prince. 23. Liaise.
Down: 1. Flagon. 2. Dray. 3. Dynasty. 4. Dacha. 5. Aberrant. 6. Ironic. 12. Oncoming. 14. Spatula. 16. Meagre. 18. Excess. 19. Osier. 21 Hoax.

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ACROSS

7. Evergreen trees native to Chile and western Argentina (6, 7)
8. Footwear attachment resembling a racket used for walking in frozen conditions (8)
9. Pear-shaped musical instrument (4)
10. Childish, immature (7)
12. Coloured substance applied to decorate walls (5)
14. 44th president of USA (5)
16. Of advancing years (7)
19. The decisive or most important point at issue (4)
20. Intermittently (2,3,3)
22. Forward thrust produced by backward ejection of gas or liquid (3, 10)

DOWN

1. Small area of horny, tender skin usually on the toes (4)
2. Pin designed for holding meat compactly together while cooking (6)
3. Aperture for looking through (7)
4. Device on a radio for finding the station you want (5)
5. Deciduous flowering shrub with clusters of brightly coloured flowers (6)
6. Soldier or guard whose job is to stand and keep watch (8)
11. Relieve of something that is causing anxiety or distress (8)
13. Fourth batter in a baseball team (7)
15. Misunderstandings or mistakes that result in confusion (3-3)
17. First born of siblings (6)
18. Start up a computer (3, 2)
21. Glide along as a stream (4)

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Watchdogs issue 'beware of fishy doorstep traders' warning

RESIDENTS in Lancashire are being warned by the county council's Trading Standards service to beware of high-pressure salesmen trying to overcharge them for bags full of fresh fish which they don't really want.

Every year officers receive complaints about traders who mainly target elderly people, conning them into paying sometimes hundreds of pounds for large quantities of fish.

The salesmen, usually from the North East, are known to move around the region selling the fish from the back of an unrefrigerated van.

The alert for Lancashire residents comes following reports that they have been operating in neighbouring areas in recent weeks.

The traders often try to convince people to buy just a few pieces of fish but then present them with freezer-filling quantities, or use a card machine to charge people's cards for large amounts without their agreement.

County Councillor Albert Atkinson, deputy leader of Lancashire County Council, said: "These traders operate by moving around the north, quickly going from area to area to try to avoid detection.

"We've been alerted that they've been operating nearby recently, with people being charged more than £250 for a couple of bags of fish, so we are warning people to avoid doing business with them and keep an eye out for their neighbours, friends and relatives.

"The sellers are usually trying to quickly get rid of an overabundance of fresh fish, but use a variety of unscrupulous methods to take advantage of people.

"They usually target estates where many of the residents are elderly and vulnerable. Our advice is never to deal with cold-callers on your doorstep, whatever they happen to be selling."

Anyone with concerns about doorstep callers in their area should call Consumer Direct on 03454 04 05 06.

More carers needed for Shared Lives Service

Report by **Henry James**

TO mark Shared Lives Week, Lancashire County Council is urging more people to get in touch to find out about becoming a Shared Lives carer.

The county council's Shared Lives service, similar to fostering for vulnerable adults, is rated as 'outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and provides care and support for adults with disabilities, mental health needs and older people.

The service matches people with carers and families who can provide support in their home.

Lancashire's Shared Lives service is already the biggest in the country and the county council is looking to expand it even further.

County Councillor Charlie Edwards

County Councillor Charlie Edwards, Lancashire's lead member for health and adult services, said: "We're looking for more people to be carers and Shared Lives week is a great opportunity for people to find out more about the scheme.

"Shared Lives works in a very similar way to fostering, but for adults. People who use the service come to live with their carers as part of their family rather than in a residential facility or with a team of support workers.

"They live right in the heart of the community. Carers support people with everything from day-to-day tasks such as preparing meals, to hobbies and interests, studying and finding employment. They also go on holiday together.

"As a carer, you get a generous monthly allowance which can range from £300 to £450 a week, based on the needs of the person you're caring for."

The focus of this year's Shared Lives Week is to find carers to support people for longer periods of time.

This could be anything from a few weeks to several years.

There are currently nearly 300 carers in Lancashire supporting more than 350 people.

For further details about Shared Lives Week, the service and to read case studies visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/SharedLives

Enquiries can be made via the website, or by emailing sharedlives@lancashire.gov.uk or calling 01772 531326.

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Venue holding event to coincide with Air Show

ON July 7 and 8 The Plaza at The Waterfront is holding a two day public weekender to coincide with the annual Southport Air Show.

The free family event which will provide views across the Marine Lake will celebrate the best in the region and have something for everyone.

There will be views of the air show along with plenty of activity on the ground with children's entertainment from Bouncy Castle Parade, food pods by Cheeky Chilli, Graham Eyes and other food vendors.

Tap and Bottles who serve craft and local bottled beers will be running pop up bars alongside Remedy and Dramshop. There will be live music from the DeadGood DJ team.

The event will be the first in a series of activities being hosted by Bliss.

The Weekender will take over the entire waterfront which was created on the site of the Floral Gardens adjacent to Southport Theatre which over its 45-year history has welcomed the likes of Marlene Dietrich, Pink Floyd and The Beatles to its stage.

To mark the birthday, the theatre will be opening up its archives for the first time during the weekender and showing exhibits and artefacts from its famous back stage and poster rooms.

The official sleep partner to Bliss Hotels, Millbrook Beds has also joined in and together with Bliss have created the UK's first pop up Bliss Bed-

Southport Theatre and Convention Centre

room to give visitors a preview of the new rooms. There will even be an opportunity to win one of the handcrafted English beds along with a weekend away to watch your new bed be built.

Enda Rylands, COO of Bliss Hotels said: "We want the Waterfront to be known nationally as an iconic tourist destination famous for great leisure and entertainment experiences. Our Weekender is about bringing people together and making The Waterfront the bustling hub of the town again."

Summer activities held at gallery

STAFF at the Chapel Gallery in Ormskirk are promising great art, delicious food and creative fun this summer.

Visitors can enjoy food and drink at The Gallery Café, browse the shop and take in the Lancashire Open Exhibition 2018.

This includes around 200 artworks by talented artists from the region and runs from July 21 to September 19.

In addition, the gallery's Craft & Design Shop provides designer homeware like Lush lamps, jewellery and a varied selection of gift items.

And the St Helens Road venue now includes a large café facility and welcomes The Modern Caterer, a family-run business with Nathan a chef who trained under Michelin-starred Paul Askew at The Art School, Liverpool.

There are also free creative activities as part of every exhibition and, while at the gallery, people can pick up the Activities and Classes Programme.

This offers a wide range of sessions, including RhymeTime for under-fives, Qi Gong for adults and a fun programme of school holiday activities for the whole family.

Ormskirk's Chapel Gallery.

Entry to the Chapel Gallery is free. For more information call 01695 571328 or visit www.chapelgallery.org.uk.

Tate Liverpool is focusing on work of two influential artists

THE Life in Motion: Egon Schiele/ Francesca Woodman exhibition can be seen at Tate Liverpool until September 23.

Tate Liverpool presents an exhibition that highlights the expressive nature of the human body, seen through the eyes of two influential and innovative artists.

Life in Motion combines the work of radical Austrian expressionist Egon Schiele (1890 – 1918) and American photographer Francesca Woodman (1958 – 1981), and investigates their incredible ability to capture and suggest movement to create dynamic, extraordinary compositions.

Working at either end of the twentieth century, Woodman's photographs help to refocus how we see the work of Schiele, highlighting how the latter's practices and ideas continue to have a relevance to contemporary art.

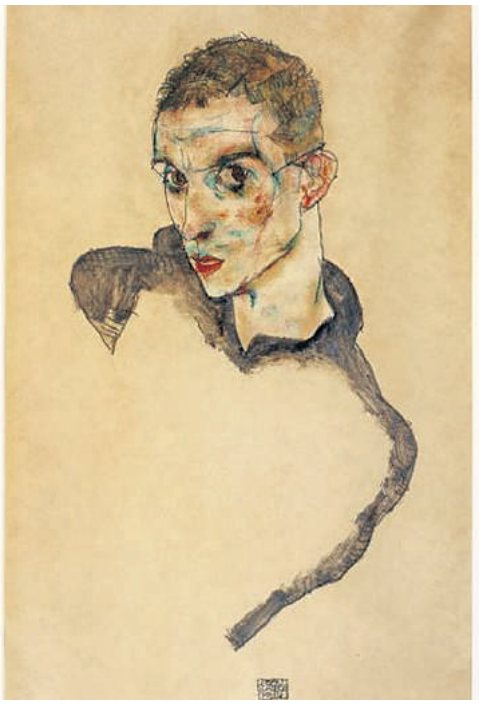
Renowned for their nude portraits and self-portraits, Schiele and Woodman lay bare their subjects' raw emotional state and physical tensions in intimate and unapologetic work.

Life in Motion: Egon Schiele/ Francesca Woodman sheds new light on the intensity and passion shared and conveyed by these two artists, whose approaches have resulted in the portrayal of candid moments.

Schiele used quick marks and sharp minimal lines to reflect the animated energy of his models, while Woodman employed long exposures to create a blurred image that captures extended yet unsteady moments in time.

Francesca Woodman was one of the most innovative photographers of the second half of the 20th century.

During her short, but exceptionally productive career, she produced a large number of striking, surreal and often humorous photographs.



Egon Schiele self portrait

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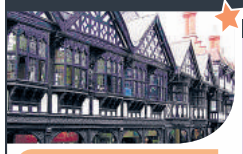
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Arrive Friday	Arrive Monday
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3, 10, 17, 31 Aug	6, 13, 20, 27 Aug
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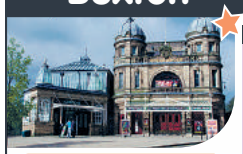
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★2 NTS	★2 NTS
Arrive Monday	Arrive Wednesday
9, 16, 23, 30 Jul	11, 18, 25 Jul
6, 13, 20, 27 Aug	1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Aug
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Jul 13, 20, 27 / Aug 3, 10, 17, 31	£85	£110

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Jul 6, Sep 7, 14, 21, 28	£50	£145
Jul 13, 20, 27 / Aug 3, 10, 17, BH 24, 31	£130	£170

4 NTS Arrive Mondays	1 BEDROOM APARTMENT	2 BEDROOM APARTMENT
Jul 9, Sep 10, 17, 24	£80	£130
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Aug 3, 10, 17	£89.95	Aug 6, 13, 20, BH 27	£159.95
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3 NTS Friday		4 NTS Monday	
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Aug 3, 10, 17, BH 24, 31	£89	Aug 6, 13, 20, BH 27	£149
Sep 7, 14, 21, 28	£89	Sep 3, 10, 17, 24	£149
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ELECTRIC FAN Chrome, swivel effect. 28". £15.00 07756597703

METAL BED FRAME Granite metallic finish, wrought iron effect, double bed, perfect condition £35 Ono 07714999658

TV STAND black glass 2 shelves excellent condition w1000 h500 d450 £20 Formby area 07788750849

SLOW COOKER Oval Morphy Richards 3.5L white and silver, nice condition £15 07704 785755

CARPET BEIGE/BROWN fleck - 330 x 315 cm - felt backed, fairly new excellent condition - £30 01695424797

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KITCHEN HANDLES Modern design, brushed steel 320 mm centres. 23 in total still in bags. £15 01695731648/07434527347

DYSON HOOVER upright dyson hoover DC07 works but needs attention handy for parts £10 07874884206

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If you do not hear from us within 10 days, please assume that your application has been unsuccessful.

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The role includes data input, credit control and other tasks as required. No previous experience is necessary as full training and support will be given, however higher education qualifications would be preferable, but not essential.

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Queenscourt

Queenscourt Hospice, a local charity providing support for people of Southport, Formby and West Lancashire. Our philosophy of care is 'life is for living' and that quality of life is paramount for those whose life may be shorter than otherwise expected.

SUPPORTIVE & SPECIALIST PALLIATIVE CARE CO-ORDINATOR

Part-Time Hours across 7 days including weekend working on a rotational basis
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The post holder will be part of a multi-disciplinary team assisting in co-ordinating the work of our hospital and community Supportive & Specialist Palliative Care Services. The main duties include a wide range of administrative and secretarial tasks including dealing with difficult conversations, written and verbal correspondence with patients, relatives and health professionals. The post holder will be predominately based at Queenscourt Hospice with some work across Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals and within the Queenscourt community catchment area. You will require a driving licence and have access to a car.

The successful candidate will have experience of working in a healthcare setting in a similar administrative role, experience of minute taking including the use of medical terminology and experience of liaising with healthcare professionals, patients and their families.

Closing date for receipt of applications: **Sunday 1st July 2018**
Interviews to be held: **Friday 13th July (AM)**

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If you would like to discuss the vacancy in more detail, please contact Helen Birch, Director of Nursing Services on 01704 517925.

Application forms and job description can be obtained from our vacancies section on our website at www.queenscourt.org.uk/jobs or by contacting the Human Resources Team at Queenscourt Hospice, Town Lane, Southport, PR8 6RE **Tel: 01704 544645**

Queenscourt

Queenscourt Hospice, a local charity providing support for people of Southport, Formby and West Lancashire. Our philosophy of care is 'life is for living' and that quality of life is paramount for those whose life may be shorter than otherwise expected.

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We are seeking to recruit a 'hands-on' estates operative to undertake the required maintenance of our Hospice. The role is based at Queenscourt Hospice on Town Lane, Southport. The hours of work are 30 hours per week and will be undertaken Monday to Friday between 8am and 5pm with very occasional weekend and evening emergency call-out.

The role will involve carrying out routine repairs, testing and risk assessments; Identifying and dealing with any hazards within the hospice and its grounds; Working with the Estates Officer to plan an annual programme of preventative maintenance; Being the point of contact for all on site external contractors.

The successful candidate with have up to date 'time-served' skills within the electrical, plumbing, joinery or maintenance industry with experience in a similar role. You will also need to be of intermediate ability using a computer.

The role is subject to Disclosure and Barring Service clearance (formerly CRB).

Closing date for receipt of applications: Sunday 8th July 2018

INTERESTED? We offer:
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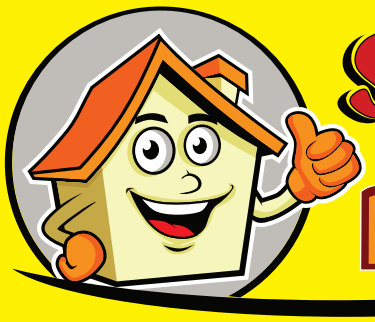

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DEATHS

EVANS FRANK

Passed away peacefully at his home on the Wirral
(Formerly of Birkdale)

Loving Husband to Freda and a dear Father and Grandfather. Will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

BUCK AGNES

On 19th June 2018
Peacefully in Hospital
Aged 87 years

Beloved Wife of the late Geoff, loving Mother of Janet, David and Paula, and a dearly loved Nanny. Funeral service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Friday 13th July at 3:20pm. Further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel 01704 214118.

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

DEATHS

MOLYNEUX JOHN

17th June 2018
aged 75 years

Beloved Husband of Eleanor. Dearly loved Dad of Brian and Kevin. Father in law of Shona and Joanne. Dear Grandad of Aaron and Ewan, Bethany and Matthew. Dearly loved Brother of George and Brother in law of Liz and a dearly loved Uncle. Service and cremation at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 29th June at 1pm. family flowers only. Donations if desired to Queenscourt Hospice would be appreciated. All enquiries to Hunters Funeral Directors, 128b Burscough St, Ormskirk, L39 2EY. Tel:01695 572997

HUTCHINGS FAYE ANNA

On 17th June 2018
Peacefully in Hospital, surrounded by her family and friends
Aged 38 years

Precious Daughter of Mal and Roger, much loved Sister of Gregg and Laura, dear Aunty of Kit and Cassia, much loved niece of Glenis & Juliet, Geoff & Geoff, Ter & Karen, David & Linda, Cynthia and Sid. 'Faye will be sadly missed by all her friends, especially Michelle and everyone at 59. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 29th June at 11:30am. Family flowers only by request, donations if so desired for Learning Stars. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel: 01704 214118.

NEED TO PLACE A FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENT?
Call the sales team now on 01704 392392

DEATHS

WALMSLEY JOAN ANNE

On 21st June 2018
Peacefully at Home after a short illness
Aged 66 years

Beloved partner of Michael, dear Daughter of Harry, loving Sister of Sandra and Jacqueline, much loved Mum of Chris and Pete, loving Grandma of Ava, Hope, Ella, Eve, Georga and Cerys, and will be sadly missed by Lucy and Cassie, and all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Tuesday 3rd July at 3:15pm. 'At Joan's request please do not wear black'. Family flowers only by request donations if so desired for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel 01704 214118.

GIBSON JOHN

Peacefully in hospital with his sons at his side on
17th June 2018 (Fathers Day).
Aged 91 years

Devoted and much loved Husband to Jane. Respected Dad to Ian and Raymond and their partners Alison and Debbie. Cherished Grandad to Michael, Stepfather to Cherry and Elaine. Dear Uncle to Yvonne. John will be greatly missed by all his loving family, many friends and neighbours. A Funeral Service and Cremation will be held at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 11th July 2018 at 12.40pm. All enquiries to R. Banks & Son (Funerals) Ltd., Halliwell House, Ormskirk Road, Pemberton, Wigan, WN5 8BB Tel: 01942 222156 wwwrbanksandson.co.uk

DEATHS

BRIGHOUSE MARIE

Sadly passed away on the 15th June 2018
Aged 78 years

Wife of Robert (Deceased), all our love Robert (Son) and Alison (Daughter), Ann (Sister) and the rest of the family. Family flowers only please by request but donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice. The funeral will be held at West Lancs Crematorium on Friday 29th June at 10 am. Marie will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

INESON MARJORIE

12th June 2018
aged 90 years

Beloved Wife of Keith. Dearly loved Mother of Gillian, Judith, Sarah and Peter. A dear Mother in law, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Service and burial at Greenacres, Rainford on Tuesday 10th July 2018. Family flowers only but if desired donations to Martin Mere Wildlife Trust in Marjorie's memory would be appreciated. All enquiries to Hunters of Ormskirk, 128b Burscough St, Ormskirk L39 2EY Tel:01695 572997

DODSON AUDREY

22nd June 2018
Passed away peacefully, aged 92 years, of Aughton

Dearly loved Wife of Alan and a dearly loved Sister of Margaret. Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Monday 2nd July at 1.45pm. Flowers, or donations in lieu are being gratefully received for Carla Lane Animals in Need charity. Flowers, donations and further enquiries please to Louis Hunter, MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk. Tele: 01695 424888.

DEATHS

CLEGG THOMAS WILLIAM (BILL) OF SCARISBRICK

17th June 2018

Peacefully in hospital aged 90 years

Devoted Husband of the late Winnie, much Loved Dad of Paul, Elizabeth and Andrew, Father in Law of Janet and Anne, Grandad of Phillip, James, Tom, Roísín and Lyndsey and Great - Grandad of Olivia. Funeral Service at St. Marks Church, Scarisbrick, on Wednesday 27th June 2018 at 1.00 pm, followed by committal at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only please by request, but donations if so desired for St. Marks Church, Scarisbrick. Donations and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors 22a, Liverpool Road, North Burscough Tele. 01704 891555

ADAMS SUE NEE TAYLOR

On 18th June 2018

Peacefully after a short illness

Adored Mum of Jonny, devoted Nanna of Rhys, loving Partner of Roy, much loved Sister of Rod, Bren and the late Michael, Sister-In-Law of Rog, Aunty of Jon, Emily, Robert, Danny, Sarah and the late Rhys, and Great-Aunty of Faith, Tom and Billy. 'Sue will be sadly missed by Cerys, Doreen, David and all her family and friends. Funeral service and committal will take place at Southport Crematorium on Friday 13th July at 11:20am. Family flowers only by request donations if so desired for Aintree University Hospital Charitable Funds. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel: 01704 214118

DEATHS

WRIGHT NELLIE R-I-P

16th June 2018

Aged 81 years

Died peacefully. Loving Wife of Ronnie. Devoted Mam, Nan and Great-Nan who will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Requiem Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes R.C Church, Birkdale on Wednesday 4th July at 11:30am followed by interment at Liverpool Road Cemetery. Flowers welcome and also donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

STANLEY RAYMOND

Sadly passed away at Willowbrook Hospice on 15th June 2018

aged 69 years

A funeral service will take place at St Helens Crematorium on Monday 2nd July at 11am. Donations in Raymond's memory would be gratefully accepted for Willowbrook Hospice c/o the family. For any enquiries contact F W Marsh Funeral Directors, 100 Parr Stocks Road St Helens, WA9 1NZ. Tel: 01744 27928

DEATHS

WATSON JANET (Jane)

June 23rd 2018

Peacefully at Warren Park Nursing Home

Aged 102 years

Dear Wife of the late Bill Jane will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Service and Cremation at Thornton Crematorium on Wednesday July 4th 2018 at 2:40pm. The family have requested for you to not wear black. All enquiries to H.Leslie Humphreys, 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby L23 5SE Tel: 0151 924 4805

BROWNBILL PAMELA

June 20th 2018

Peacefully aged 84 years

Dearly loved Wife of the late Ernest. Adored Mother of Jonathan and Suzanne. Loved Mother-in-law of Sadie. Brilliant Nan to Curtis, Tom, Jack, Rhian, Michael and Ethan. Funeral service and Cremation at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough on Saturday June 30th 2018 at 11:00am. Family flowers only please but donations, if desired for James Page Nursing Home c/o Graham J Clegg Independent Funeral Service, 7 Dover Road, Maghull, Merseyside L31 5JB Tel: 0151 520 3330 or at www.cleggfunerals.co.uk

DEATHS

CULSHAW JUDITH HEATHER

After a long illness, peacefully at home Tuesday 19th June 2018 Aged 69 years.

Much loved Wife of Anthony Edward. Much loved Mum of Heather and John. Loving Nana of Maeve. Dear Sister of George. Judith will be sadly missed by all her family and friends who knew her. Funeral Service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Tuesday 3rd July 2018 at 11.20am. Family flowers only by request but the family are gratefully receiving donations for Queenscourt Hospice Southport, and People for Change. Further enquiries to Co-operative Funeralcare, 22c Wigan Road, Ormskirk L39 2AU. Tel: 01695 577244.

GREEN JEAN

24th June 2018

Passed away suddenly but peacefully at home, aged 77 years of Ormskirk

Beloved Wife of Harold, Loving Mum of Denise & Alan and Daughter-In-Law Laurence. Much loved Nan of Dillan, Kyle, Luke, Troy, Paul & Colin. For Funeral arrangements and further enquires please contact Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk. Tele: 01695 424888.

IN MEMORIAM

BOLTON SAMANTHA

26th June 2017

When it rains I'll look for rainbows, and when it's dark I'll look for stars.
Sister Always.
Miss you every day
Manfa kiss kiss kiss
Love Joel and Nicole
xxxxxxxxxx

BOLTON SAMANTHA

26th June 2017

Kiss her on this day Lord, and when you see her smile, tell her I still think of her, and miss her all the while. Forever young and forever loved
Love Joanne and Jason
xxxxxxxxxx

BOLTON SAM

26th June 2017

One year has passed without you,
It seems like yesterday,
The pain won't go away,
I think about you every day,
I know you couldn't stay,
I'll think about you every day,
until we meet again, my Sam
Broken hearted Nan, Mena x

IN MEMORIAM

BOLTON SAMANTHA MARGARET

It was a pleasure to have known you Sam
We were honoured that you were a part of our family
We loved you in life sincerely and still love you in death just the same
You were sincere and true in your heart and mind
What beautiful memories you have left us behind

Forever in our Hearts
Auntie Amanda Uncle Stuart, Joe,Jay, Ella, Nan Carol, Mal, Uncle John, Stephen & Mica

CHRISTOPHER JAMES HORNBY

26th June 2017

We didn't know that morning and the pain that day would bring. When a golden heart stopped beating and we couldn't do a thing.
No words can heal the heartache or stop a silent tear or take away the memories of a Son we loved so dear.
Mum, Dad and Kate.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HEAPS NORA ELAINE

Stuart and family would like to thank friends and neighbours for their support and kind messages of sympathy on our sad loss of Nora. A big thank you to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors for their help and wonderful services and especially the Minister Paul Griffiths. Thank you to all the care services, especially Anne O'Hare and Southport Hospital. Thank you all for your kind donations fo the Alzheimers Society in memory of Nora.

To place a family **announcement** please call 01704 392392 or visit champnews.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

RUSHTON WILLIAM

FREEMAN COUNCILLOR

Norma and Family would like to thank all Relatives, Friends, Clergy and Williams Civic colleagues for their support during and since his last illness and passing. Special thanks to Cll Johnny and Marie Duffy for their continued support. Sincere thanks is also extended to staff at Graham Clegg Funeral Service for their care and dignity at this most difficult time. To Aintree Hospital Ward 3 for the loving care they gave to William.

DAVIES FRANCIS (FRANK)

Audrey and Steve would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy, cards and donations for The British Heart Foundation received during this sad time.

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FARINI
HAZEL

Jacqui, Mike and family would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours, for all their sympathy cards, messages of condolence and donations for The British Heart Foundation, received during their recent sad loss of a much loved Mum & Nan. Special thanks also to Father Godric for his kind words of comfort and MLS funeral directors for their dignified funeral arrangements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BREWER
KEITH
(Of Banks)

Eileen would like to express her sincere thanks for all the messages of sympathy, cards and kind donations. Thank you to Peter Goulding for his wonderful service, also The Bull and Dog, Burscough for their hospitality. A heart felt thank you for the support and care shown by Claire, Dave and their team at Newland & Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15
APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2017/0819/OUT Outline -Residential development including details of access, layout and scale at Valera Ltd, Plox Brow, Tarleton.
2018/0499/COU Use of land for repair and re-conditioning of farm machinery and equipment material - conveyors and machinery (retrospective) at Rose Villa, Georges Lane, Banks.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
2018/0525/HYB Hybrid Application - Full planning permission for the construction of a link road between Tollgate Road/Ringtail Road and the Phase 1 residential development of the Yew Tree Farm site including associated drainage and other works; and outline permission for the construction of 31,100 sqm of B1, B2 and/or B8 employment development (all matters reserved except for access positions from the existing/new roads) together with the provision of related infrastructure including the construction of drainage works, services and related utilities at Land To The East Of, Tollgate Road, Burscough.
The proposed development affects a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Acts 1981 applies.
2018/0558/FUL Erection of an additional livestock unit with feed bins at Hobcross Farm, Hobcross Lane, Lathom.
2018/0593/FUL Remodelling of existing conservatory to front elevation & internal alterations at 76 The Common, Parbold.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
2018/0606/FUL Demolition of existing livery buildings and erection of replacement building for use for Class B8 storage or distribution purposes at Marsh View Stables, Rydings Lane, Banks.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
2018/0616/FUL Change of use from university administration (class d1) to university teaching and learning (class d1) use at 57 St Helens Road, Ormskirk.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number.
Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.
How information about you will be used
The personal data you provide will be used as part of the Council's statutory planning duties in processing planning and related applications. Some of the personal information you provide will be published. For further information about this notice or how we use your personal data please see: http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-privacy-notices/level-2-development-management-cil-privacy-notice.aspx and http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/legal-statements-and-foi/privacy-and-data-protection-gdpr.aspx. Hard copies are available on request.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Director of Development and Regeneration
Dated: 27th June 2018
PDNOT1001

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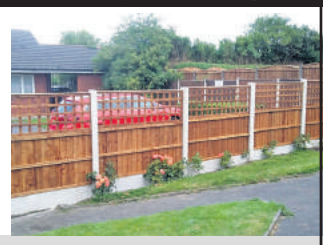

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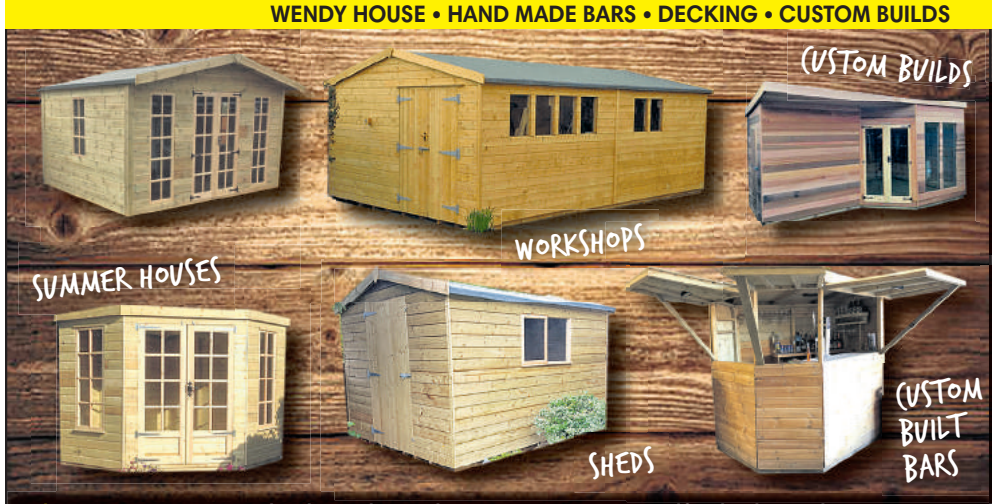

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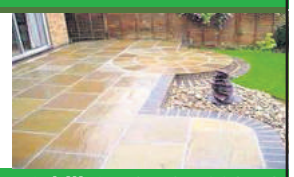

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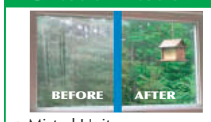

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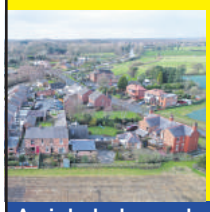

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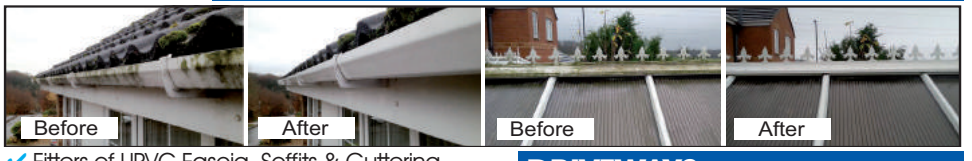

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This can mean only one thing - it's time to head to Le Mans!

THE FERRY tickets are booked. A phrase book allowing the ordering of baguettes from service stations in broken Franglais has been purchased. Oh, and a boot's worth of all the safety-related clobber that only the French seem to insist on has been ordered.

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All of which can only mean one thing – it's time to head off to Le Mans. A couple of colleagues and I have just serviced a slightly tired-looking Rover 216 Coupe, and the big plan is to venture down to Portsmouth and hop on an overnight ferry. All of which means we'll be able to watch Porsches thundering around the world's greatest race track barely a day later.

I know what the race fanatics are thinking already – that I've got my dates spectacularly wrong, because the Le Mans 24 Hours race was a couple of weeks ago. You know, the one where Toyota spectacularly snatched victory after decades of near-misses? When effectively Fernando Alonso was the winner, because you couldn't remember the names of anyone else driving the car that came first?

Ahhh. Actually the one I'm on about is the Le Mans Classic, which isn't actually one long race but lots of short ones, and is dedicated entirely – as the name suggests – to machines that pounded the Mulsanne Straight decades ago. I love it not only because it involves pretending to go camping but actually sitting outside your tent with a beer watching some Group C cars doing some night racing, but because classic Le Mans racers actually look vaguely like normal cars.

Think about it. Toyota will spend the next year going on about how winning Le Mans will somehow make the next generation Auris a bit better, but when was the last time you saw anything even remotely like its LMP1 racer on any sort of road?

A Ford GT40, on the other hand, was designed to humiliate Ferrari – which it did four times on the trot – but it still looks like a GT40 a very rich bloke might drive to the shops. Same with the Jaguar C-type of the 1950s, and if you don't live in a world of Pathe newsreels, it's worth remembering that the McLaren F1 that won in 1995 was based on a road car.

The world's fastest and most expensive road car, of course, but one that genuinely had as much luggage space as a contemporary Fiesta.

Maybe it's time they revisited the rules at Le Mans to make the racers a teeny bit more relatable to normal people who aren't Fernando Alonso – if it can't be driven legally through, say, Crosby on a Friday night, then it ain't going to Le Mans.

It might mean the cars don't look as bonkers, but it'd give hope to the rest of us that we might see cars vaguely like it bringing joy to people stuck in Volkswagen Passats.

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David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

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Ainsdale's Stephen Lucas who's half century against Prestatyn was in vain as they lost by four wickets. Picture by Roger Green

Leaders Northern maintain grip at top of Premier Division

LIVERPOOL & District Cricket Competition Premier Division leaders Northern maintained their lead with a 22 run home win against Colwyn Bay, *writes Glenn Wallworth*

The hosts chose to bat and were able to declare on 239-6, thanks in the main to an impressive unbeaten 110* (11x4) from Australian opener Hayden McCrae and 48 from Chris Brownlow, whilst Ryan Holtby took 3-94 with the ball.

In reply, Tom Sephton once again led the way with the ball as his 4-97 helped dismiss the Welshmen for 217 to wrap up victory, writes Glenn Wallworth.

Formby kept themselves in second place with a 118 run win at New Brighton, the visitors elected to bat and thanks to an unbeaten 83* from Lukman Vahaluwala, 35 from Tim Smithies and 33 from Sam Oldham were able to declare early on 245-5. In reply, David While's 50 for the hosts was in vain as young Jackson Darkes-Sutcliffe took 4-22 and Ben Aitchison took four wickets in four balls in his 4-33 to help bowl out New Brighton for 127.

Ormskirk remain in third place after a four wicket home win against Wallasey, the visitors elected to bat and thanks to Alex Eagles 60, Matt Wilcox 42 and Neil Cross 31 managed to post 164 up on the scoreboard, with Scott Lees 4-44 and Tom Hartley 3-31 taking the bulk of the wickets. In reply, Alex Rankin top scored with 73 and Gary Knight hit an unbeaten 28* as the hosts sealed victory on 166-6.

Bootle recorded a 93 run win at Highfield, the visitors were asked to bat and thanks in the main to Will Hale 72 and Mike Farrell 50 were able to declare on 223-8, with Sam Rotherham taking 5-92. In reply, James Taylor 31 and Ben Gregory 31* both top scored for hosts but the rest had no real answer to the spin of Bharat Tripathi 3-55 and the gentle swing of skipper Craig Prince who took 5-22 to help dismiss Highfield for 130.

In the First Division, Southport & Birkdale remain top after a busy weekend saw them draw at second placed Orrell Red Triangle on Saturday, where Chris Riley 64, Siddiq Patel 36 and Mohammed Bhada 34 helped the hosts put 195 on the board, with Andy Warhurst 3-30, Chris Firth 3-45 and Gary Keedy 3-50 taking all but one of the wickets to fall.

In reply, Charlie Byrne top scored with 38 and Bradley Yates took his tally of league runs past the 500 mark with 36 as the visitors ended the stalemate on 132-7 with Patel taking 5-51.

On Sunday S&B took full advantage of their game in hand at Wigan with a devastating ten wicket win that lifts them 31 points clear at the top.

Wigan elected to bat and were dismissed for 129, thanks to 5-44 from Chris Cunningham, 3-33 from Gary Keedy and 2-32 from Andy Warhurst, with Aaron Redmond top scoring with 28. In reply, in form Bradley Yates took his seasons average to 114.4 with an unbeaten 67* and Isaac Lea was undefeated on 59* as they eased to 130-0 and secured maximum points for Chris Firth's side.

Fleetwood Hesketh made it two wins in two with a 12 run home win against Newton le Willows, the hosts chose to bat and thanks to runs from Lee Rimmer 32, Gavin Dickenson 32 and Huw Summerfield 29 managed to put 202 up on the scoreboard, with Nathan Hughes 3-31 and Dominic Chambers 3-38 shining with the ball.

In reply Thomas Gunshorn was left stranded on 73* as the visitors were dismissed for 190, thanks to 4-60 from Dickenson, 3-19 from Danny Murphy and 3-32 from Lee Rimmer.

Stephen Lucas hit a half century as Ainsdale declared on 217-7 at home against Prestatyn who replied with 220-6 to seal a four wicket victory, no further individual scores were available at the time of writing.

Burscough suffered a seven wicket home defeat by Sefton Park, Alan Murray top scored for the hosts with an unbeaten 29 as they were dismissed for 131, with Robbie Houghton 4-30 and Dan Kelly 4-46 doing most of the damage with the ball.

In reply, Scott Aitchison helped himself to an unbeaten 69 as the visitors cruised to 135-3 to wrap up victory.

In the Second Division, Southport Trinity recorded their second one wicket win of the season at the Rookery in a closely fought contest against Old Xaverians, the visitors slumped from 75-2 to 139 all out with Shaun Haigh 48 and Ian Carroll 42 scoring the majority of their runs, whilst Michael Roberti 4-31 and Tony Campbell 4-43 led Trinity's fightback with the ball.

In reply the hosts were heading towards victory on 133-6 when three wickets fell for no runs including that of top scorer Wim Van Der Walt 45, leaving the match evenly poised it was then left to the last pair of Geoff Thornton 1* and Luke Falkiner 22* to seal a dramatic victory on 141-9.

Hightown St Mary's recorded a seven wicket win at Maghull where the hosts chose to bat and were bowled out for 147 with Paul McKenna 30 and Greg Gillespie 27 in decent touch, whilst Jack Cosgrove took the bowling honours with 6-48. In reply, Arslan Dar 76 and Jayden Schadendorf 32 built the platform that enabled the visitors to secure a comfortable victory on 148-3.

● *This weekend's local LDCC fixture's (1pm)....Bootle v New Brighton, Formby v Northern, Rainhill v Ormskirk, Sefton Park v Ainsdale, Southport & Birkdale v Fleetwood Hesketh, Wavertree v Burscough, Hightown St Mary's v Alder, Parkfield Liscard v Southport Trinity, whilst Maghull have no fixture due to Skelmersdale 1st XI resigning from the league.*

Skem edging closer to town return after absence

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Skem were kicked off Stormy Corner last year

SKELMERSDALE United are edging closer to a return home with plans in motion to find a new ground.

The new season is growing near for Skem and they are looking to the future and planning their return to Skelmersdale from their present base at Prescot Cables.

It is well documented how Skelmersdale United were forcibly moved from their Stormy Corner ground in October last year.

The Champion reported last year how bailiffs were brought in to change the locks at the stadium and a security guard was put in place at the ground to prevent club officials entering the premises.

Club officials spoke of their shock after Chequer Properties took the action over alleged 'breach of contract' regarding the club's lease.

It was claimed at the time by the ground's owners that this involved failing to keep the stadium and buildings in a good state of repair and safety issues.

They also claimed club officials were told about the potential for such action in June and failed to act.

However, Skelmersdale United bosses said they had been addressing issues and that they had not been told a clear reason as to how they had breached their lease.

It has now emerged that a plan to return to Skelmersdale pretty soon is in place and they have strong hopes that it will be before the end of the coming season.

The Champion believes Skelmersdale are close to making a formal announcement on their new base, but the club will need to put quite a bit of infrastructure into place.

This would include stands and the general things you would expect to find on a non-league football ground.

Skelmersdale United are planning the finance and support they will need to achieve this aim, with their new appeal.

They are inviting the business community of the town to get on board with them and be part of the big return to Skelmersdale.

This week the club issued the following statement: "The management board at Skelmersdale United are presently engaged in negotiations to bring your town club back home and this will be in the foreseeable future.

"This will though incur heavy costs and as such we are hoping that you in the local business community would look favourably on what we have to offer and enter into one of our sponsorship packages.

"This is not just a case of sending out the begging bowl, it's about what we can do for you or your company in return.

"Now is the time we need your support more than ever so that we can make plans, this is about your town's local football club's future.

"This season the team will have a more local element and we will be holding open trials nights at the JMO (Blaguegate Lane) in the hope we can find some local talent once more to pull on the clubs first team shirt, a kit that could feature your company name and logo.

"It's not all about spending thousands. Just helping the club when it needs it most, we can also speak with you about tailoring packages to suit your particular needs."

"Naturally we would love somebody to come in with £10,000 and they would be made very welcome, but smaller businesses can play their part too, £100 and £200 sponsorships would be excellent and we will make them equally welcome.

"They would be playing their part in bringing the town team home to Skelmersdale."

The spokesperson at the club also commented on season ticket sales, which they said are going "really well" adding "it is great that they are showing confidence in the club."

Season tickets are on sale via the below contacts for £120 for adults and £60 for concessions.

Contact Chairman Paul Griffiths 07513123164 or email paulgriffiths39@sky.com

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£12,000	£10,000	£177.71	4.9%	£4,696.25	£11,093.81

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£15,370	£13,370	£262.51	4.9%	£5,312.50	£14,762.86

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SCRAPPAGE £2,000 ALLOWANCE

RRP	BALANCE TO FINANCE	36 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	APR%	GFV	TOTAL
£17,000	£15,000	£249.09	4.9%	£7,722	£18,689.24

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